***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Praying with Confidence to our Father and Praying for His Goodness; Matthew 7:7-11**

**Rejoinder, Matthew 7:6,**

* **What is holy?** 
  + **Your life, the word of God, your resources, your relationships, your ministry, your treasures: in short, anything in your life that God holds as sacred**
* **Who are the dogs and hogs?** 
  + **Anyone who holds the sacred things of God with distain**

**Exposition of Matthew 7:7-11**

1. **Praying with Confidence to our Father, Matthew 7:7-8**
   * **Verb form implies an ongoing action: keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking (see Luke 11:5-10 with associated parable)**
   * **Commitment by God to persistent, consistent, faithful prayer: He will answer**

**Intermission: Praying with Confidence for Missions, Romans 15:30-32**

* **Striving in prayer for the purpose of short-term, mercy based missions**
* **Praying for safety**
* **Praying for the ministry to be well received**
* **Praying for the joy of all involved**

1. **Praying for the Father’s Goodness, Matthew 7:9-11**
   * **The analogy of an earthly father who knows how to respond to the request of a child with the good of the child in mind**
   * **The superlative comparison, “how much more” with reference to God our Father**

***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Praying with Confidence to our Father and Praying for His Goodness; Matthew 7:7-11**

**Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* **Section on prayer that concerns our confidence and His goodness**
* **Does God listen to the prayers of His children? If Jesus is to be believed, YES**
* **Does God answer the prayers of His children? If Jesus is to be believed, YES**
* **According to this passage God answers our request the way a parent answers a child’s request**
* **Is there good reason to pray to Him today? Yes, for the sake of our families, for the sake of the church, for missions, for friends that are struggling in weakness**
* **Read Matthew 7:7-11 (Slides)**

**Exposition Matthew 7:7-11 (Slide 1 – Header Slide)**

1. **Rejoinder, Matthew 7:6**
   * **Read Matthew 7:6 (Slide 2)**
   * This verse is critical to prevent us disengaging our brains
   * We cannot say “Jesus says do not judge, so who am I to say this is good or bad.”
   * Jesus also says do not take what is sacred and waste it
   * **What is holy?**
   * **Your life, the word of God, your resources, your relationships, your ministry, your treasures: in short, anything in your life that God holds as sacred**
   * **Who are the dogs and hogs?**
   * **Anyone who holds the sacred things of God with distain**
   * Application of this verse in dating
   * Application of this verse in spending money
   * Application of this verse in our time
2. **Praying with Confidence to Our Father, Matthew 7:7-8**
   * In teaching us how to pray, Jesus encourages us to pray with confidence
   * **Read Matthew 7:7-8 (Slide 3)**
   * **Verb form implies an ongoing action: keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking**
   * In Luke’s Gospel Jesus gives very similar language but includes the story of the friend
   * A traveler and a sleeping family
   * From this parable, Jesus says “So ask, seek, knock…”
   * **Commitment by God to persistent, consistent, faithful prayer: He will answer**s
3. **Intermission: Praying with Confidence for Missions, Romans 15:30-32**

* **Read Romans 15:30 (Slide 4)**
* Striving in prayer for the purpose of short-term, mercy based missions
* Praying for safety
* Praying for the ministry to be well received
* Praying for the joy of all involved
* **Video of Missions Locations (Video)**

1. **Praying for the Father’s Goodness, Matthew 7:9-11**

* **Read Matthew 7:9-10 (Slide 5)**
* **The analogy of an earthly father who knows how to respond to the request of a child with the good of the child in mind**
* The analogy that runs throughout the Sermon on the Mount is the picture of a parent/child relationship
* Jesus returns to that analogy or that picture again as He again addresses the issue of prayer
* How does prayer work? Look at the way a parent/child relationship works?
* If my child says “daddy, can I stop studying for my spelling test?”
* Is it a good gift to my child to tell him, “you never have to study again.”
* Would my child think that is a good gift? Yes
* This helps us so much in this prayer relationship with God
* So many things come into our lives that we would not bring into our lives on our own
* At the lake, inner tubing, I throw Michael into the lake
* Later, Michael kicks me off the inner tube
* **Read Matthew 7:11 (Slide 6)**
* **The superlative comparison, “how much more” with reference to God our Father**
* God is good by nature, we are evil by nature
* If we, being evil with nefarious motives, ill intent, lazy tendencies give good things to our children when they ask, how much more so our Heavenly Father

1. **Conclusions:**
   * **God loves it when we ask Him for help**
   * **God loves to answer our prayers**
   * **He answers our prayers according to His knowledge of our situation and His love for us as His children**
   * **Therefore, pray with confidence by persistently, consistently, and faithfully taking your request to God**
   * **God will answer us out of His goodness and out of His love for us**

Announcements:

1. Prayer time for Men of Haiti
2. New Comers’ class on Sunday November 14
3. Business meeting this evening