

TREAD LIGHTLY

Questions for Application for the Week of June 2, 2014

Part 4 -Seek Help: Ask For What You Need - Matthew 7:7-12

1. Matthew 7:7-8 is not a promise to give us whatever we want, but read in light of the rest scripture, is properly understood to be a promise to help us live the Christian life. While we might pray for external things to change (and are welcome to do so), God's promise is to change us internally. Why is that such a significant distinction to recognize and what is the danger in not doing so? Is that reality good news or a bit of a let down for you? Why?

2. In speaking to the crowd Jesus says, "If you then, who are evil" (Mt. 7:11), but does not say, "If we then, who are evil". Why is it so important when considering Jesus' answers to our prayers to remember that he is without sin? Are you guilty of doubting Jesus' goodness or love for you when it comes to things you have been praying for? In what ways does Matthew 7:9-11 encourage you to trust?

3. Read Matthew 5:17-7:12. In what ways does the "Golden Rule" (Mt. 7:12) embody this section of scripture and how could you practically put this command into practice this week? Why is the negative version, "Do not do to others what you don't what done to you", so dramatically different?

4. Since Jesus has paid the penalty for our sin, we are free to enjoy grace. We do not work to earn grace but strive to live the life he has called us to. What are the practical implications of that distinction and how can Romans 8:1-4 and Philippians 3:12-14 help direct your answer?