♦SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, April 14, 2013

"PRAYER – JUST ASK"

(Matthew 7:7-12)

Our study of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount again addresses the topic of prayer. Why? Jesus focuses on prayer again because we need to give it extra attention. We don't pray often or as we should. We give it far less attention than it deserves. Today's Bible verses are an invitation to the greater blessings of prayer.

1. God	to pray.
2. God showers us with	
3. God makes Himself	•
4. God is ready to respond to	
5. God invites us to approach Him	
6. God as Father is better than	·
7. God's goodness is	because He has already

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(Matthew 7:7-12)

- 1. God invites us to pray.
- 2. God showers us with prayer promises.
- 3. God makes Himself available.

"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3, NASB).

4. God is ready to respond to everyone who asks.

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12. NLT).

5. God invites us to approach Him as Father.

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11, NASB).

6. God as Father is better than any earthly father.

"Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way" (Hebrews 12:9-11, NLT).

7. God's goodness is <u>trustworthy</u> because He has already made us His children.

"How much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him" (Matthew 7:11, NASB).