

I. The Context, Significance and Meaning of our Passage

- A. *The Sermon on the Mount reveals our short-comings...*
- B. *We sense with grief our need for grace...*
- C. *There is grace sufficient...*
- D. *Our response to Jesus' sermon ought to be: ask, seek, knock... i.e pray sincerely, urgently, persistently...*

1. Ask, a general term meaning to make your request known...
2. Seek, implies we may not know what we're looking for or how to ask... Romans 8:26
3. Knock, implies that sometimes things seem closed off and blocked up...

E. *The Good news—there is the promise of help... Hebrews 4:16; James 5:16*

II. The Nature of True Prayer

A. *There is sincere desire* *Isaiah 26:8-9; Psalm 38:9-10; Romans 8:26*

B. *There is a sense of urgency*

1. So few prayer warriors... *Isaiah 64:7*
2. Prayer was an urgent and primary activity of the Apostles... *I Thessalonians 1:2ff; II Thessalonians 1:11ff; Romans 1:9-10; Colossians 1:3, 9*
3. An expectation of all Christians... *Romans 12:12*

Observation: Ask, seek, and knock together sum up what it is to pray... see *Isaiah 55:6, 7; Proverbs 2:3-5; Matthew 7:7-8 cf. vs. 11*

C. *There must be persistence...*

1. A continuous activity... *Genesis 32:24-26; Isaiah 62:7; Ephesians 6:18; I Thessalonians 5:17*
2. This is underscored by our Lord's teaching... *Luke 11:5-13*
3. Scripture gives numerous examples...
 - a. The Syro-Phoenician woman in *Matthew 15:21-28*
 - b. Blind Bartimaeus in *Mark 10:46-52*

Lessons: 1. Prayer is an activity of faith...
2. Our faith is strengthened and informed by God's word... *see John 15:1ff*

Observations: 1. The necessity of praying this way to our Christian walk...
2. God tests our faith in order to increase and strengthen it...
3. God is not reluctant to answer our prayers...

III. The Reason to Pray This Way

- A. *Persistence in prayer leads to results...* *James 5:17-18*
- B. *Jesus Promises that God hears us and answers our prayers...*

Application: