

**“Our Father in Heaven Gives Good
Things to Those Who Ask”**

Matthew 6:24-33, 7:7-11

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- We do not have the ability to dedicate our primary attention to our spiritual and physical needs simultaneously
 - Matt. 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. ***You cannot serve God and mammon.***”

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- We need to believe and trust that God holds us as the most beloved of all of His creation
 - Matt. 6:25-26 - “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. ***Are you not of more value than they?***”

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- We need to become convinced that worrying over the less important matters as if they were the most important things is utterly futile and robs us of our strength and resources
 - Matt. 6:27 - “***Which of you by worrying*** can add one cubit to his stature?”

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- We must constantly remind ourselves that with ease, God providentially cares for all of His creation, especially for humankind
 - Matt. 6:28-30 - “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now ***if God so clothes the grass of the field***, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, ***will He not much more clothe you***, O you of little faith?”

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- We must embrace His instruction to redirect our focus and energy away from fear of lesser matters to single minded pursuit of the greatest of all matters
 - Matt. 6:31-33 - “Therefore do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But ***seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness***, and all these things shall be added to you.”

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- We need to trust God, Who, as the first and greatest loving Father of children, gives good things to those who ask
 - Matt. 7:7-11 - “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 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 good things to those who ask Him!”

Our Difficulty With This Is Two-Fold:

- We measure God's love based on what we get from Him
- God measures love by who we are and what we can become

Our Difficulty With This Is Two-Fold:

- We don't want God; we want what God gives us.
- Want to test this?
- What if God didn't offer or give you anything; would you love Him and follow Him?
 - John 6:26, 66 - "Jesus answered them and said, Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled... 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."

Our Difficulty With This Is Two-Fold:

- In contrast, God doesn't want what we have to give; He wants us.
- Want to test this?
- What did God feel and do for us when we were in our most unlovable state?
 - Rom. 5:8 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Our Difficulty With This Is Two-Fold:

- Until we come to the place that we love God because He is God and not because of the things He gives us and does for us, we will never mature in the faith, we will never know the love of God, and we will not know God.

Our Difficulty With This Is Two-Fold:

- We measure the quality and security of our existence carnally and not spiritually.
- The breakdown in our reasoning is that we think that if the little things in our lives are in order, the big things will be okay, too.
- God's reasoning is that if the most important things in our lives are in order, the less important things will be taken care of; and, if they are not, then that's okay; they're just little things.

Our Difficulty With This Is Two-Fold:

- Therefore, we whittle on God's end of the stick by telling Him how to provide for us, what we want Him to provide for us, and when we want Him to provide it.
- And if He doesn't give us what we want, how we want it, and when we want it, we doubt Him, become angry with Him, and turn away from Him