

(Matthew 7:7-11, NIV84)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

You may have seen recently that protests are happening around the country. People are protesting stay-at-home orders from various governors and want their freedoms restored. "Let us reopen our businesses!" "Let us work to provide for our families!" "Let us have our lives back!" Certainly these all seem like good and reasonable requests. The problem is that the governors have to weigh the benefits of restoring freedoms with the potential result of spreading the virus. Is it better to keep people in their homes, or to let their lives return to normal?

While we would like to think that our governmental officials have the correct answers to all these difficult questions, the fact is they are fallible human beings and subject to error.

As fallible humans beings ourselves, we too are prone to error. We think we know what's best for us, but the truth is we don't. We bring our prayers to God and ask Him to give us the things we want, but what we want may ultimately be harmful for us.

Thankfully the Lord our God is not subject to human failings and sinful shortcomings. His judgments are always good and right. At times when we bring our requests to Him and expect that He will answer our prayers according to our will and desires, thankfully He instead is gracious with us.

Recall the old warning: be careful what you ask for. Indeed, if we always got everything we asked for, our lives would be a train wreck. But our gracious God, like the loving Father He is, does not give us things that will harm us, but only what is for our good. How important it is that we don't act like petulant children who have to get their own way. Instead let us always bring our prayers and petitions to God with complete trust which willingly says: Thy will be done. He will never disappoint us.

Under God's guiding hand with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

April 23

Gifts from the Father's House

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights. James 1:17

From their earliest years, children learn to look to their father's house as the one sure place from which their every need will be supplied. Food and shelter, warmth and clothing, tender care in days of sickness, and, above all, love and sympathetic understanding when big clouds of sorrow suddenly come upon their little lives, these are the priceless boons for which the little ones instinctively turn to their father's house.

These are also the priceless blessings for which we older "little ones" should constantly turn to our Father's house above. Surely, our heavenly Father is infinitely more able and willing to supply our needs, to heal our sicknesses, to lighten our burdens, and to soothe our sorrows than any Earthly father. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children", says Jesus, "how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

James emphasized the utter dependability of God when he says: "Every good gift . . . is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (1:17)." In other words, ours is a God who can be trusted, no matter what our lot in life may be.

In times of need let us remember that through Christ we are God's children, not God's orphans. He is our living Father, with ample gifts for all his children. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him UP for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.

The Lord my Shepherd is, I shall be well supplied;
Since He is mine and I am His, What can I want beside?

Lord, sometimes my faith in Your providence wavers and I am filled with doubts. May Your Holy Spirit fill my heart with faith in Your goodness, for You are truly my Father. Amen.