

Help Is Near Matthew 7:7-11

Righteousness Is Hard

Much of this sermon from Jesus contains things that are very difficult for us to accept, much less put into practice.

Love enemies, help hurters, forsake riches, remove worry, overcome hate, stay humble, judge righteously, endure persecution, rise above baser instincts, etc.

How do we find the courage and strength to make these changes?

As Jesus closes the main body of this sermon, He reminds us that help is as close as a prayer.

Much like He told the Apostles after his warning about riches. - **Matthew 19:23-26**

Wisdom comes from God through prayer - **James 1:5-8**

Consistently turning to God for help is the way

Persevere

Greek present tense - "continuous action":

"keep on asking" and it will be given to you

"keep on seeking" and you will find

"keep on knocking" and it will be opened to you

Applies to all aspects of our service

Prayer - **Luke 11:5-8; Luke 18:1-8**

Study - **Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 119:97-104**

Spiritual Growth - **1Thessalonians 4:1-7; Hebrews 5:14-6:3**

Evangelism - **2Timothy 4:1-6**

God Is Waiting To Help

God delights to give good things to his children

How do fathers react to a request?

Certainly God will respond even more! - **John 15:7; 1John 5:14-15**

God has a strong desire to help us draw closer to Him - **Romans 8:31-39; 1Peter 5:6-7; Hebrews 13:5-6**

Diligent Service

If we "keep at it" God is ready to assist - **2Peter 1:10-11**

He has already shown His willingness in sending Jesus to provide salvation - **1Corinthians 15:56-58**

He is waiting for our return - **2Peter 3:9**

DLH/MC-EO