

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXI

June 12, 2011

No. 24

God Wants To Be Asked

(Jerry Fite)

How would you feel if your 5 or 10 year old child never came to ask something of you? As a parent, we want our dependent children to talk to us about their needs and desires. Because parents are capable of providing, they want to be asked. The same is true with our Father in Heaven.

What is the purpose of God forcing us to think about what we would do if our son asked us for some bread or a fish? After agreeing we would not give a son a stone or a serpent, we hear Jesus say, *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?”* (Matthew 7:11). Thinking of the lesser to the greater, we see that God will most certainly give us better gifts.

However, showing God is a better gift giver than we is not the only goal of Jesus’ teaching regarding the Father as the giver of good gifts. Hopefully, this understanding will move us “to ask”. Asking of the Father is what He

wants. Does not Jesus open this section of His sermon on the mount with the exhortation, *“Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; for everyone who asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him who knocketh it shall be opened”* (Matthew 7:7-8)? God is ready to give us good things and He wants to be asked!

When Jesus was teaching his disciples how to pray he encouraged them to “ask” in prayer by telling a story about a person who went to his friend’s house to borrow three loaves of bread. He could not have picked a more inconvenient time. It was midnight, and all were in bed. Do not “trouble” me was the response from inside, but the friend persists. Due to the “shameless persistence” of the one asking, the friend gives what is needed (Luke 11:1-8). What is Jesus teaching us? Not merely that we need to ask, but that God wants us to keep coming to Him with our requests.

What might be considered as being “troubled,” is a moment

of “delight” for the Father. *“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Jehovah; but the prayer of the upright is His delight”* (Proverbs 15:8). He not only is rejoicing in the character of the one petitioning him, but He takes delight in the very petition.

Jesus exhorts us to continue coming to the Father in prayer without “fainting,” or giving up by telling the story of a widow and an unrighteous judge. The judge does not fear God or regard man. But he finally grants the widow’s request. Why? *“... lest she wear me out by her continual coming”* (Luke 18:5). If an unrighteous judge gives in, certainly our righteous and caring Father in heaven will “avenge speedily” when we faint not, and keep coming to Him with our requests.

God reveals in these stories connected with Jesus’ teaching on prayer that He wants to be asked. He wants to be asked and asked and asked, even to the point where we might think we are badgering Him. He seeks our prayerful requests, as any caring and capable Father would.