“Prayer if you Dare—Call to Boldness”

 *(Matthew 7:7-11)*

We have been enjoying 21 days of prayer—continuing our look at Jesus’ teaching on prayer in the Sermon on The Mount. We’ve looked at what it means to pray with a RIGHT HEART, using the LORD’S PRAYER as a PATTERN, and how important it is to pray with a FORGIVING spirit.

Today, we are going to unpack together WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY WITH BOLDNESS?

 *“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.*

***8****For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matt 7:7-8)*

***“****One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up... “ (Luke 18:1)*

***“****Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge.****7****Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night… (Luke 18:6-7)*

Ask – Seek - Knock:

 **God wants us to be BOLDLY PERSISTENT**

***33 “Seek******the Kingdom of God above all else****, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” (Matt 6:33)*

***16****”…The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16b)*

*“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead?****10****Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not!****11****So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.” (Matt 7:7-11)*

**Trusting God’s goodness makes our prayers BOLDLY Expectant!**

*“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his MERCY, and we will find GRACE to help us when we need it most.” (Heb 4:16)*

***4****Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings!” (Ps 61:1-4)*

***8****“Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them…” (Ex 25:8)*

***22****I will meet with you there and talk to you from above the atonement cover between the gold cherubim that hover over the Ark of the Covenant. (Exodus 25:22)*

*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. (Rom 3:25a NIV)*

***19****And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.****20****By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.****21****And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house,****22****let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him....” (Heb 10:19-22a)*

**Because of Jesus, we can BOLDLY ENTER into the very presence of God!**

This is what God’s Mercy is all about! But you may be thinking—so we have access, what about answers?

BOLDNESS in NOT— ARROGANCE, ENTITLEMENT or ASSERTIVENESS

BOLDNESS *is* HUMILITY, HONESTY & unguarded AUTHENTICITY

***6 “****If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won’t do it, because I don’t want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message,****7****even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud*

*.****8****Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.****9****Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness (2 Cor 12:6-8) –*

**I will BOLDLY pray trusting God for His Mercy & Grace come what may.**