



# TWENTY ONE

—DAYS OF PRAYER—

*“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.”*

*Matthew 7:7*



**Get to Know You:** What’s something you’d consider to be a bold act or ask? How would you rank your own personal level of “boldness” compared to your friends?

1. **Read Matthew 7:7-11.** How can we tell Jesus is talking about prayer in this portion of the Sermon on the Mount? As he instructs his listeners to “ask, seek & knock”, what is the point (bottom line) of Jesus instructions here as it regards prayer? What do you think persistence in prayer matters—or does it?
2. Considering the above passage further, what do these verses reveal to us about the nature of God? **Now read Luke 18:1-8.** Here we see Jesus teaching his disciples through contrasting God’s nature to that of an unjust judge. What are some of the elements we can draw from this passage that will help us be bold in our own prayer life?

3. **Read Genesis 32:1-12 & 32:24-30.** For a bit of background, you may remember that Jacob had cheated his brother Esau out of both his inheritance and their father's blessing. He had to run away for many years, and now he is on his way back to his homeland. We pick up the story in this passage. What are some things you notice about how Jacob is feeling? What does he do? What is the outcome? If you have ever heard the phrase "wrestling in prayer", this is where that originates from. What is something you have (or are now) wrestling with God in prayer about?
  
4. **Read Hebrews 4:14-22.** In the Old Testament, we can read about the system of worshipping God through sacrifice in the book of Exodus (chapter 25). The writer of Hebrews is drawing a connection to this "Old Covenant" by referring to Jesus as our "High Priest". How can understanding Jesus' righteousness (not ours) give us access to God's presence? How should this truth change our confidence and posture in prayer?
  
5. **Read Psalms 116:1-9.** What can we learn about prayer from this Psalm? When you think of God's mercy and grace, how does this help encourage you to pray with boldness rather than holding back?
  
6. **Read Matthew 6:33.** How might seeking God's Kingdom first shape the bold prayers we bring to Him? What difference do you see between boldness and entitlement in prayer?

