



Ask, Seek, Knock: Matthew 7.6-12

1. Hey you, pig! Whoa. It's a slap in the face, isn't it? Why do insults hurt? And why does language have such power? Discuss.

2. This passage teaches us to give our trust and loyalty to God rather than Gentile rulers and their sycophants. Stassen and Gushee. Do you agree with their interpretation of this verse? If you disagree - and think giving pearls to dogs is a teaching on being discerning in how you treat those who are hostile to the gospel - then make your case to the group. If you believe S & G have a case, then is there a contemporary application? Whom are you tempted to trust instead of God?

3. Some believe that the escalation from asking to seeking to knocking is Jesus' way of urging greater and greater intensity in prayer. Do you agree? What is your experience of seeking God with increasing intensity? Share your experiences with the group.

4. The writer Dallas Willard interprets the whole section, including the last verse, known as the Golden Rule, as teaching on inter-personal relationships. (If necessary, listen to this section again. Starts 6:52). Do you agree? What does his interpretation teach us about our treatment of other people? How does it challenge you? OR Discuss the Golden Rule. Why is it a principle that is so enduring?

5. What he isn't teaching here is a guarantee that God will jump when we say jump. He's describing God's character, as one who loves to give to his children. Discuss the issue of prayer in terms of trust and a yearning for control. Do you crave control? How hard is it for you to simply trust God? See Matt 9.29; 17.20; Acts 3.16; 2 Cor 1.8-10.