

LIVING THE KINGDOM LIFE

Asking - 10/20/19

OVERVIEW

When God doesn't answer our prayers immediately, or in the way we wanted, it stings. It brings up questions about our faith or His faithfulness. It can make us feel like we are doing something wrong, or maybe we question if He is the all-knowing, all-powerful God we believed Him to be. If you have ever thought you were the only one to have these thoughts when your prayers felt unheard or unanswered, be assured you are not. So, what can we, or should we, focus on when this happens? How do our prayer "asks," unanswered or not, impact our Kingdom life?

Scripture (all ESV, unless noted): Matthew 7:7-12; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; Matthew 17:20; Luke 18:1-5 (NIV); and Matthew 6:9-13

APPLICATION

- Jeremy shared that "unmet expectations are the mother of all frustration." Share a funny story about a time when you had an expectation about something, and it didn't go the way you thought it would.
- Sometimes God's plans are not the same as our plans. You may have learned that when you didn't get accepted into your favorite college choice, or didn't get that job you really wanted. Maybe you have struggled for years and years to get pregnant, or were dumped by the person you thought you would spend the rest of your life with. We all have our own unmet expectations. Share about a time when God frustrated you or didn't show up in a way you expected Him to. How did you respond? Have you learned any lessons from that situation?
- God wants us to move from "**I AM NOT** (fill in your word) to **I AM** (fill in your word)." He wants us to move from "**GOD'S NOT** (fill in your word) to **GOD IS** (fill in your word)." How would you fill in these blanks?
- We are invited to ask, to seek, and to knock over and over again. God (our Good Father) does not grow weary of our pleas. Where have you stopped asking for your desires? What does going to your Good Father look like this week?
- HOMEWORK: Renew your commitment to asking, seeking, and knocking. Begin by praying the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 daily and making it a personal prayer of your heart.