

Ask!

Ponder: Asking and receiving

Scripture: “Ask, and it will be given to you” (Matt. 7:7, NKJV).

The immediate context of Jesus’ statement is answered prayer, but remember that God can and does work through the agency of people. Caleb’s daughter, Achsah, illustrates this fact well. After her marriage to Othniel, Achsah asked her father to give her a field containing springs of water (Josh. 15:18-19). He had already given her some land in the “south” (i.e. the Negev, a characteristically dry area in southern Israel). The field with springs likely adjoined what she already had, and would make her property far more useful. Caleb didn’t begrudge her request, but gave her “the upper springs and the lower springs” (Josh. 15:19b).

We should not hesitate to ask for reasonable and needed things, nor should we resent being asked. Church leaders should ask the members to support the Lord’s work generously. In most cases, the congregation responds admirably!

Preachers, especially missionaries, ought not to be ashamed to ask for a reasonable salary. Jesus Himself said “the laborer is worthy of his wages” (Luke 10:7) and “commanded that those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). May the day perish in which members of the body of Christ (who ought to know better) think they are being good stewards of the Lord’s money by reducing their missionaries and other preachers to poverty! An old joke has a tight-fisted brother praying, “Lord, you keep him busy, and we’ll keep him humble.” If that brother (or sister) is you, repent!

How about asking folks to work as well as give? Little is accomplished by merely complaining that needed work goes undone. Announcing that “we need someone to do task X” is usually an exercise in futility. Have you ever met that elusive person named “Someone”? Instead, ask a specific individual to handle the job. You may be shocked at the positive results!

Song: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God”

Prayer: Mighty Father, how blessed we are to know that we can ask You for whatever we need, and you will respond as You know is best. We thank you for good people through whom You work to help us in countless ways. Help us to have willing hearts so that You will be pleased to work through us to bless the lives of others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.