

ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN

1. Text: Matthew 7:7-12
2. Notice verse 7: Ask it shall be given. This is in the context of prayer. (See verse 11) But the principle is broader and we do not do violence to text by applying it in that broader sense.

I. The Importance Of Asking

1. "Ask and it shall be given."
2. It's hard to exaggerate how important asking is to success in so much of what we do. Great things come from asking.
3. Winston Churchill's biographer:
4. Elijah and Elisha (II Kings 2:9-10)
5. Matthew 20:6-7 Why idle all day? No one asked us.
6. Acts 8:30 Philip's simple question
7. My asking
8. Dating
9. Selling: Have you asked the person to buy?
10. Somehow we expect people to respond without this.
11. OSMOSIS?
12. How many will say, "I thought you'd never ask."
13. Joseph went boldly into Pilate and asked. (Mark 15:43)

II. The Application Of Asking

1. "Ask and it shall be given." Think about it!
2. Consider this: Asking will not insure success, but not asking will insure failure.
3. Truth is lots of folks are fearful of asking people to do anything concerning religion. (Remember 75% have no serious religious affiliation). Why? Probably we're fearful they'll say yes as much as no.
4. The devil loves this condition.
5. Truth: We've lost the fine art of asking. Even among fellow Christians.
6. Major misconception: When we ask, we are using some pushy, pressuring, possibly offensive approach. That could be, but does not have to be and shouldn't be.
7. "Golden rule response" (Matthew 7:12)

8. The asking chain:

9. The evangelism strategy: TAT
10. Direct or indirect asking:

Conclusion:

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