



THREE TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR GOD - Where is God?
Matthew 7:7-11 - March 27-April 2

Main Idea: When God seems absent, trust in his goodness

Look Back (Remind yourself of the challenge from last week)

This sermon series closes out our study in the Sermon on the Mount, focusing on three tough questions we have for God in our lives. The focus of this series is to look at how Jesus' closing teachings reveal God's character, providing hope for the path that he provides for us.

Look Up (Wrestle with the passage itself)

Read Matthew 7:7-11 together.

Jesus' words here have the potential to polarize. At times, we have experienced the power of these words. We have asked, in faith, for God to provide. And he has. But then we've also experienced the other side. We have asked, pleaded, and begged with him to provide good and reasonable things, and yet he is silent.

Discussion Question: Spend some time in your group talking about your experiences. Do you find these words hopeful or hurtful? When have you experienced a time that God has provided for you in a time of need? When have you asked for something that God still has not given to you?

Jesus compares God to earthly fathers, showing his love to be superior. He says that even we, as evil people, know how to give good gifts. How much more, then, does our loving father long to give us good gifts?

So then how do we handle the times when God doesn't provide?

Sometimes the problem is our ask - we don't actually know what is good for us. Sometimes the problem is our timing - we will receive it, but will have to wait first. But most often the reason and the explanation is simply a mystery that we will never solve. God, in his infinite knowledge and wisdom, chooses to do what he does.

The solution in the midst of this confusion is trust. To trust in his goodness above all else. To know that he loves us more than we could ever understand, and that his choices are rooted in his goodness and faithfulness to us.

Discussion Question: Where are you struggling to trust in God's goodness today? Spend some time sharing together.

Look Forward (Challenge to do something with it)

Challenge: One of the ways that unanswered prayer overwhelms us is because it causes us to forget the blessings that he is giving us. Your challenge for this week is to spend ten minutes at the end of each day writing down the ways that God has blessed you in the last 24 hours. These can be as simple or as detailed as you like. Notice how God is reminding you of his faithfulness through this exercise.

Prayer Challenge: Spend time, as a group, praying for the needs that were mentioned in today's time together. Pray that God would demonstrate his love and goodness in the midst of these difficult times.