

*Digging Deeper*

# DEVOTIONAL



No Stones for a Son

A Person that God Can Use (Pastor Ken)

Kittiwake Baptist Church

<http://www.kittiwake.org/devotionals/>

(Week 20)

## Day 1

### No Stones for a Son

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matt 7:7-11)

Does God ever do something just for me because I ask Him? In Matthew Jesus says; "Ask and it will be given to you." Is Jesus encouraging us to ask for things? Yes! You may say; "It doesn't seem like He is doing that for me" or "Does He have favorites?" God says ask, and if it is a good thing, God will give it to you. But who is God making this promise to?

1. Those who are genuinely God's children

God can answer any prayer he wants to, from anyone, but He has tied His promises to His children. Who are His children?

- Those who are born again (John 3:7)
- No one can come to the father except through the son (John 14:6)

Those who have recognized their sin, believed in Jesus, accepted His sacrifice for their sins, and proclaimed Him as their Lord and Savior have the benefit of God's promises to His children.

***Can you claim the promises of God? Have you ever asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?***

No Stones for a Son

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." 26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. 27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." 28 So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. 29 Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. .... 36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. 37 Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. (1 Kings 18:25-29; 36-38)

As children of God we can have confidence that God will keep His promises. When Elijah went against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel he had confidence because of the answered prayers He'd already seen. When God calls us, we too can have confidence. He who has been faithful in the little things will also be faithful in the big things.

**Reflect on the times that God has answered prayers in the past.  
What is He calling you to do today? You can trust Him!**

## Day 3

### No Stones for a Son

*1 Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.*

*2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:1-2)*

*18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19 but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. (Psalm 66:18-19)*

God is also making this promise to:

2. Those children who are trying to please the Father.

God's promises are also dependent on our obedience and our motivation. Are your prayers seeking to please God or yourself?

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (1 Peter 3:12)*

*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Peter 3:7)*

***It's not that God isn't doing His part. We are tying His hands. Are you seeking to be obedient to God's word? Take a look at your life. Who are you seeking to please?***

No Stones for a Son

9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matt 7:9-11)

What is this promise in Matthew 7 really a promise of?

- We as parents give good gifts to our children.
- We do this despite being evil (imperfect/limited – having human limitations)
- God, with no imperfections, is even more ready to give His children good gifts.

God tells us to come with the spontaneity of a child and ask; if it is good, He'll give it to you.

*13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:13-15)*

***Are you claiming the promises of God? Are you seeing your prayers answered? If not, check your motivation and ask God to reveal any sin that is hindering your prayers. Then you can be sure that God will hear your prayers and that if it's in His will, He will keep His promise and grant your request.***

## Day 5

### A Person that God Can Use

1 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about (Gen 22:1-3)

Why do people burn out in a church? Because they are working in their own power. Most things that take place in a church can continue without God. But without God, there is no power. God wants to empower you and use you. So what does God look for in a person He can use?

#### 1. Someone available to the plan of God

God isn't looking for your ability, but your availability. The plan of God is not like our plans. In Genesis 22 we see that God was going to test Abraham. Abraham had a choice; family or God. Too often we take our families side over God's side when we make decisions. "Family blood is thicker than Calvary blood." But Abraham loved God more than his family. Also many churches today like to "stay in the huddle rather than play the game." Abraham could have made excuses to delay his trip, but he trusted God's plan and was quick to follow it "early the next morning." God doesn't call us to understand, just to do it.

*"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (Matt 10:37)*

***Do you love God more than anything else? Are you letting yourself be available to God's plan? Pray today for God to give you a willing heart.***

A Person that God Can Use

11 *But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." (Gen 22:11-14)*

2. Abandoned to the Purpose of God

Another trait of someone God can use is that they are abandoned to the purpose of God. Abraham had a dedicated heart and lived a life of worship. If the only worship you do is on Sunday morning, you don't do it. Worship is honoring God, the King. Abraham lived his life as an act of worship.

3. Assured of the Provisions of God

In Gen 22:8 Abraham says; "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Heb 11:1 says:

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

Abraham believed God for what he couldn't see. God had previously promised in Gen 17 that His covenant would be through Isaac and his descendants. Abraham trusted that God would fulfill His promise even though God's plan didn't make sense to him.

***It's not about us, it's about Him. Are you abandoned to the purpose of God? Does He take priority over everything else? Do you live your life as an act of worship? If so, you can count on His provision every time.***