



5 Daily Devotionals (From July 12th Sermon)

Day 1: Ask. Seek. Knock.

Key Verse:

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." — Matthew 7:7

Prayer isn't about convincing God to care. It's about bringing our hearts to the Father who already does.

Jesus paints a beautiful picture of persistence. Sometimes we simply ask for daily needs. Other times we spend months—or even years—seeking God's direction. Then there are those desperate seasons when we're pounding on heaven's door because we have nowhere else to turn.

In every circumstance, God hears His children.

That doesn't mean every answer is "yes." Sometimes His answer is "wait." Sometimes it is "no" because He is protecting us or preparing something better. But every answer flows from His love, wisdom, and perfect knowledge.

The greatest danger in prayer is treating God like a vending machine instead of a loving Father. A vending machine dispenses products. A father gives what is best for his children.

Keep praying. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. Your Father has not forgotten you.

Prayer:

Father, help me trust Your heart even when I don't understand Your answers. Teach me to come to You often and confidently, knowing You always hear Your children. Amen.

Day 2: The Father Gives Good Gifts

Key Verse:

"How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" — Matthew 7:11

It's easy to measure God's love by whether life is going the way we planned. But Jesus reminds us to measure His love by His character instead.

God is a perfect Father.

Just as a loving parent doesn't give a child something harmful simply because it's requested, God sometimes withholds what we ask because He sees what we cannot. His delays are not neglect. His "no" is not rejection. His timing is never accidental.

There are also moments when God allows people to make sinful choices. He does not force anyone to believe or obey Him. We live in a broken world where others' decisions can deeply wound us. Yet even in those painful circumstances, our Father remains present, working for our good and drawing us closer to Himself.

The cross proves His love beyond question. The empty tomb guarantees that His promises can be trusted.

When you wonder whether God cares, look to Jesus.

Prayer:

Lord, help me trust that You are always good, even when life is confusing. Thank You for loving me more perfectly than I can imagine. Amen.

Day 3: Walking the Narrow Road

Key Verse:

"Enter by the narrow gate." — Matthew 7:13

Following Jesus is not the easiest road—but it is the only road that leads to life.

The wide road is attractive because it asks very little. Put yourself first. Do what feels right. Follow the crowd. Trust your own heart.

Jesus calls us somewhere different.

He calls us to love others as we would want to be loved. To forgive. To serve. To put God first instead of ourselves.

None of us does this perfectly.

That's why repentance is such a gift. Repentance isn't merely admitting failure; it's returning to the Savior who gladly forgives sinners. Every day we come to Christ empty-handed, confessing where we've fallen short, and every day He meets us with mercy purchased by His death and resurrection.

The narrow road isn't traveled by perfect people.

It's traveled by forgiven people who keep returning to Jesus.

Prayer:

Jesus, whenever I wander, draw me back to You. Give me a repentant heart that trusts Your forgiveness and follows You each day. Amen.

Day 4: Stay Rooted in God's Word

Key Verse:

"You will recognize them by their fruits." — Matthew 7:16

Not every voice that sounds spiritual speaks God's truth.

Jesus warns that false teachers often appear trustworthy. They may sound convincing, compassionate, or even religious. Yet if their message pulls people away from Christ or contradicts God's Word, it bears bad fruit.

How do we recognize the difference?

By knowing Scripture.

The more we read God's Word, the easier it becomes to recognize truth from error. Like a banker who studies genuine currency to spot counterfeits, Christians become discerning by spending time with God's Word rather than chasing every new opinion.

God's Word also shapes our own lives. Faith produces fruit—not to earn salvation, but because living faith naturally shows itself through love, prayer, generosity, forgiveness, and obedience.

Healthy trees bear fruit because they're alive.

So do believers whose lives are rooted in Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, plant Your Word deeply in my heart. Help me recognize truth, reject error, and produce fruit that points others to You. Amen.

Day 5: Built on the Rock

Key Verse:

"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." — Matthew 7:24

Storms are unavoidable.

Some storms arrive suddenly through illness, grief, or broken relationships. Others come quietly through doubt, temptation, or discouragement. Every life eventually faces wind and rain.

The question isn't whether storms will come.

The question is what your life is built upon.

If our confidence rests in our goodness, our accomplishments, or our ability to hold everything together, those foundations eventually crumble. But Christ never does.

Jesus is the Rock.

He carried our sins to the cross. He defeated death through His resurrection. He promises forgiveness, new life, and the certainty of eternal life to all who trust in Him.

That doesn't remove every storm, but it changes every storm. We never face suffering alone because our Savior walks with us through it.

When everything else shakes, Christ remains steady.

Build your life on Him today—and every day.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being my solid Rock. When storms come, keep my faith anchored in Your promises and remind me that You will never leave me or forsake me. Amen.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matthew 7:7–29 | Two Paths, One Savior

Opening Question

Think about a time you had to choose the harder path because you knew it was the right one. What made that decision difficult, and how did it turn out?

Key Truth

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by showing that following Him is more than outward religion or checking spiritual boxes. He desires our hearts. While His standards reveal our inability to save ourselves, they also drive us to depend completely on His grace, His forgiveness, and His strength. The Christian life is one of daily repentance, trusting Christ, and walking with Him on the narrow road that leads to life.

Read Together

Matthew 7:7–29

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalm 145:18-19** – The Lord hears those who call on Him.
 - **Philippians 4:6-7** – Bring every request to God in prayer.
 - **John 14:6** – Jesus is the only way to the Father.
 - **Ephesians 2:8-10** – We are saved by grace through faith, created for good works.
 - **James 1:22** – Be doers of the Word, not hearers only.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – Scripture equips us for every good work.
 - **1 John 1:8-9** – God faithfully forgives those who confess their sins.
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Discussion Questions

1. Ask, Seek, Knock

Jesus encourages His followers to pray with confidence and persistence.

- Which of the three words—**ask, seek, or knock**—best describes your prayer life right now?
- How have you seen God answer prayers with "yes," "wait," or "no"?
- Why is it important to remember that God is our loving Father rather than a vending machine?

2. The Narrow Road

Jesus says the way that leads to life is narrow.

- What makes following Jesus difficult in today's culture?
- What are some "wide road" temptations that compete for your heart?
- How does remembering Christ's forgiveness encourage you when you fail?

3. Beware of False Teaching

Jesus warns His followers to recognize false teachers by their fruit.

- Why is it important to know Scripture for yourself instead of depending only on others?
- What practical habits help you stay grounded in God's Word?

4. Building on the Rock

Jesus compares obedient faith to building a house on solid rock.

- What storms have strengthened your trust in Christ?
- What does it look like to build your daily life on Jesus instead of your own wisdom?

5. Heart Check

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continually points beyond outward actions to the condition of our hearts.

- In what area of your life is God inviting you to trust Him more deeply?
 - What is one practical step of faith or obedience you can take this week?
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Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for speaking clearly through Your Son. We confess that we often choose our own way instead of Yours. Forgive us for the times we have trusted ourselves more than You. Thank You that Jesus has done what we never could, securing our forgiveness and giving us new life through His death and resurrection.

Strengthen our faith through Your Word. Teach us to pray with confidence, to trust You when Your answers are different from our expectations, and to recognize truth from error. Help us build our lives on Christ, our solid Rock, and produce fruit that reflects His love in our homes, workplaces, and community.

Keep us on the narrow road that leads to life until the day we rejoice with You forever.

Amen.