All I Want for Christmas

(Ask God)

Matthew 6:5-15 (Main Text)

James 1:5-8, Matthew 7:7-11, James 4:3 (Other texts)

1. Intro
   1. Thanksgiving...to Christmas: think about thanksgiving, it’s thanking our provider!
   2. **I researched something...**
      1. Today that means something different than it did 100 year ago.
      2. It means I googled something most of the time,
      3. And ‘deep’ research would be going to page 2 of the results
      4. I’ve researched this thoroughly...everyone wants something for Christmas.
         1. Well, 9 out of 10 maybe
         2. Like the dentists commercials...9 out of 10 dentist say you should brush your teeth with toothpaste...I’ve never met that 1 dentist
      5. **The best research is experience...so experience the provision of God by asking Him**
   3. All I want for Christmas…
      1. A song or two claiming the one most important thing a person wanted during this season of giving
      2. A statement about priorities
   4. Sermon series will look at lots of statements made in popular Christmas songs, that tell a human story
   5. **This week, we turn this secular carol into a reminder that we are to ASK GOD**
   6. **Prayer is a mystery to me...but...**
      1. We are told to pray
      2. We are told how to pray
      3. We are told God knows, and we are to communicate with him
      4. We are to ask God
      5. This is directly connected to the effectiveness of our church and ministry
      6. **DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF A GREAT MOVEMENT OF GOD?**
         1. **Then pray**
         2. **And use your gifts for the honor and glory of God!**
   7. The key to asking God is to ask in accordance with HIS WILL
      1. Jesus teaches us this in the model prayer
      2. Our father, your kingdom come, your will be done
      3. These are the prayers of faith!
2. Text: Matthew 6

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. yTruly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. aAnd your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 fPray then like this:

g“Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.1

10  jYour kingdom come,

your will be done,2

on earth as it is in heaven.

11  mGive us this day our daily bread,3

12  and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13  And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.4

14 rFor if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

1. Point
   1. **Ask God who gives GENEROUSLY**
      1. James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
      2. **God generously gives us the gifts needed to accomplish His mission**
      3. **Trust God to give you the tools necessary to accomplish all he has for us.**
      4. **To forget the generosity of God is to forget the very character and nature of God.**
      5. **When we forget what God has done, we find ourselves tossed about by the wind**
      6. **But the text refers to us as double-minded and unstable!**
      7. **You demonstrate what you believe about God by believing God enough to trust His answer: no manipulation, just faith in God.**
   2. **Ask God who gives GOOD GIFTS**
      1. Matthew7: 7-11 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!
      2. God’s plan is best and God’s plan is blessed
      3. God wants to bless you!
      4. **You are SPECIAL in the eyes of God**
         1. **You are blessed**
         2. **You are favored**
         3. **You are HIS CHILD**
      5. God/Man Contrast
         1. We want to bless our children and give them the world…and we are evil in our flesh
         2. So, how much more amazing is the GIFT God has for us…HE IS GOOD!
   3. **Ask God who gives PURPOSEFULLY**
      1. James 4:1-3 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?2 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
      2. The purposes of God are clear
      3. **HE is challenging us to follow by FAITH**
      4. **When we forget this truth, we battle the selfishness of the flesh**
      5. **When we remember this truth, we ask with expectation, and God gifts us to do what He purposed for us.**
      6. **Our life is not our own, we belong to God, and we seek out the will of God, and He directs purposefully.**
2. Close
   1. Here is the key to asking God: purity of heart
   2. The prayers of the righteous have much effect!
   3. **What do you want for Christmas...ask God for it!**