



Daily Reflections

March 14, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 7: 7-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Ask and it will be given to you;

seek and you will find;

knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds;

and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which one of you would hand his son a stone

when he asked for a loaf of bread,

or a snake when he asked for a fish?

If you then, who are wicked,

know how to give good gifts to your children,

how much more will your heavenly Father give good things

to those who ask him.

"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

This is the law and the prophets."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus gives us a very important instruction on persistence in prayer. His message is very simple: Don't give up on God. How quick we are to give up and get frustrated and even angry with God because our desperate prayers don't seem to get answered. Jesus tells us to keep knocking, keep seeking,

keep asking. Please remember, prayer was never meant to change God. God is eternal and changeless. Prayer is meant to change me. In my ardent prayer, I have the opportunity to learn a great deal about myself and even more about God. I can tell you from personal experience: God does, indeed, listen to and answer our prayers. He never gives up on us. May we never give up on Him.

Food for your Journey

Is this hope or foolishness? Can persistence in the face of despair equal success? You decide:

Charles Lubin enjoyed both eating and making cheesecake. He was pretty good at both. So good that he decided to open a cheesecake store, which he did on the north side of Chicago.

It flourished and so he opened a second store in South Chicago. That store did not do so well and eventually he lost both stores as a result.

Discouraged, he sat in his room one night and while eating his cheesecake, thought "This is pretty good cheesecake!" So he tried again and opened his original store again. Soon, he opened another store, but it failed and he once again lost both stores.

Less than a year later, while eating his cheesecake he said to himself "This is pretty darn good cheesecake!" So he opened his original store — again! But after opening a second store, he went bankrupt.

He tried and failed to open cheesecake stores a fourth time.

Then he had an idea. He made great cheesecake, and he wanted to open another store, but this time he decided to name his cheesecakes after his daughter, Sara Lee. It became the largest bakery in the world.

—Source unknown.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, How persevering I can be in waiting for the material things I want. I can work hard, save for long periods of time and do without things in order to ultimately get something I really want. Help me, Lord, to be patient and

persevering in my spiritual life. May I become a more patient and trusting person in my prayer and faith. Amen