

Matthew 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Analysis

The conclusion: if you, being evil (sinful, fallen), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him? The logic is unassailable. God's generous nature infinitely exceeds even the best human parenting.

Historical Context

Jewish prayers often addressed God as Father, but Jesus's intimate use of 'your Father' was distinctive. He emphasizes personal relationship, not distant deity. Luke's parallel specifies the Holy Spirit as the supreme gift (Luke 11:13)—God gives Himself.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God as generous Father rather than harsh judge affect your approach to Him?

2. What good gifts has God given you that you didn't deserve or even know to ask for?

Interlinear Text

εἰ οὖν ὑμεῖς πονηροὶ ὄντες οἴδατε δόματα ἀγαθὰ

If then ye evil being know gifts good

G1487

G3767

G5210

G4190

G5607

G1492

G1390

G18

δώσει τοῖς τέκνοις ὑμῶν πόσῳ μᾶλλον τοῖς πατὴρ

give which children shall your how much more which Father

G1325

G3588

G5043

G5216

G4214

G3123

G3588

G3962

ὑμῶν τοῖς ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς δώσει ἀγαθὰ τοῖς

shall your which is in which heaven give good which

G5216

G3588

G1722

G3588

G3772

G1325

G18

G3588

αἰτοῦσιν αὐτόν

to them that ask him

G154

G846

Additional Cross-References

James 1:17 (Good): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Romans 8:32 (Parallel theme): He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Psalms 84:11 (Good): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

John 3:16 (Parallel theme): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Isaiah 49:15 (Parallel theme): Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Psalms 86:15 (Parallel theme): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalms 86:5 (Good): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

1 John 4:10 (Parallel theme): Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Genesis 8:21 (Evil): And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

1 John 3:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.