

THURSDAY MARCH 14

Read the Gospel for today Matthew 7:7-12

REFLECTION:

Initially while reading this passage it may seem like God will always answer our prayers just the way we hope He will. But even in this passage it's unclear as to whether they received exactly what they were asking or looking for. The truth is that as much as we want God to answer our prayer exactly the way we think He should, that is not how prayer works.

The passage compares the heavenly Father to a parent giving his child what the child desires. But if a child asked a parent to eat candy for every meal of the day, would a good, loving parent allow that child to actually live on candy alone? While a young child may not understand the problem with his request, out of love, a good parent gives his child what the child truly needs. Our heavenly Father treats us in the same way. While we may be discouraged when He doesn't answer our prayer in the way we want Him to, we should be encouraged knowing that out of His great love for us and in His great wisdom, He is bestowing blessings upon us in exactly the way we need.

CHALLENGE

Think about a time in your life when God answered a prayer differently than you had expected and how, in hindsight, the situation turned out far better than you could have imagined. Take some time to journal about that experience.

~ Taken from LifeTeen's LENT COMPANION 2014