Glorious Alternative 17 - "Mommy, I Want a Cookie"

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:7-12

Jesus' standard is that we love for other people's sakes and not our own benefit.

"Think about what you would like someone to do for you and go and do that for someone else."

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:10 (ESV)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Acts 6:1

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:1-4

We should all be coming here with our spiritual antennas tuned to what The Holy Spirit is trying to tell us about the needs of others.

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Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

If you want to learn more about Jesus, do more of what Jesus does.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:12

As his church, our actions and inactions toward people communicate what we believe to be true about God.

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:20

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What we truly need from God is the ability, energy and stamina to live out the precepts found in the sermon on the mount.

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:34-35

When we ask for the right things, the door to God's glory and provision will be opened to us in new ways.