SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 7:7-12 **Preaching Date:** November 15, 2026 **Preacher:** Monty Simao

Understanding the Text

1. Jesus commands His disciples to ask, seek, and knock. In the Greek, these verbs denote continuous, habitual action. How does this posture of "beggar's wisdom" differ from the pagan repetition Jesus condemns in Matthew 6:7?

2. Jesus says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts..." How does this passing statement by our Lord affirm the doctrine of total depravity and original sin (cf. Genesis 6:5; Ephesians 2:3)?

3. Jesus uses a lesser-to-greater argument comparing earthly fathers to our Heavenly Father. According to the parallel passage in Luke 11:13, what is the ultimate "good gift" the Father gives to those who ask? Why is this a far superior gift to temporal prosperity or the immediate removal of our trials?

4. Jesus says the “Golden Rule” summarizes the Law and the Prophets. When viewed outside of Christ's mediatorial grace, why is this actually a crushing weight rather than a simple moral aphorism? How does this command function as a mirror (Romans 3:20) to expose our spiritual bankruptcy?

5. The word "therefore" connects the Golden Rule directly to the promise of the Father's provision. Why must we run back to the grace of verses 7–11 when we are condemned by our inability to keep the demands of verse 12?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Where in your life are you currently tempted to rely on your own self-sufficiency rather than adopting the posture of a dependent child before God?

2. How does remembering that God gives what is *best*, rather than exactly what we requested, help you trust His sovereign care during your current trials?

3. In what specific relationship (marriage, parenting, church family, or workplace) do you find it most difficult to practice the active, sacrificial love required by the Golden Rule?

4. We cannot perfectly keep the Golden Rule, but Jesus Christ kept it flawlessly on our behalf. How does resting in Christ’s active obedience and imputed righteousness free you from despair? How does the gift of the Holy Spirit empower you to begin loving your neighbor this week out of gratitude rather than fear?