

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

Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 7:7-8

How do we receive Jesus' words? As good news for those who happen to be in need? Or, as **the pattern** for all followers of Jesus? Is my relationship with Jesus characterized by asking, seeking, and knocking, because I recognize my own profound need, as well as the profound needs of our world?

The prayer our Lord taught his followers, calls us to ask, seek and knock: to desire God's Reign to come on earth as it is in heaven. It implies that we are constantly in need of God's mercy and grace.

Once we get over that first hurdle of embracing an orientation of "I don't have my act together," we face a second hurdle: recognizing God's responses to our asking, seeking and knocking.

There is a seemingly insignificant sub-plot throughout the movie *The American President* (1995), in which the widowed President repeatedly tries to give flowers to a woman he is dating. His security details thwarts every attempt: the President can't just walk into a shop and buy flowers. At the end of the movie, he hands her a dozen red roses. She asks, "How did you manage to do it?" He sheepishly responds, "I discovered I had a rose garden."

Transition is a time to ask, seek and knock. We will receive, find, and have doors opened! Often the resources, opportunities and answers are hidden in plain sight, like the President's rose garden.

May the literal and figurative roses we take time to smell during transition remind us to continue to ask: "What (or who, or where) is Shalom's rose garden?"

Looking ahead:

June 19: 9:30am "Let's sing all the verses" Isaiah 2:1-5

11:00am Congregational Dialogue #1: Transitional Plan

Future sermons: June 26—Brian Bither; July 3—Sabrina Falls

July 10: 11:00am Congregational Dialogue #2

Projected in town schedule: June 19-21; 26-28; July 10-13

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