

Matthew 21:22

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

In today's verse, Jesus was teaching about faith, which we read about in the preceding verse.

† **Matthew 21:21** *So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.”*
(underlined for emphasis)

Yet, some will take part of what Jesus said, which is verse 22, and use it for prayer as a “Honey Do List” to God, because all they read is, “*whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.*” Which they take as a green flag for them to start asking away and they will receive, because Jesus said so. But we still have to back up a few more verses and get the entire context of what was going on and what this verse really means.

† **Matthew 21:18-20** *Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, “**Let no fruit grow on you ever again.**” Immediately the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?”*

Notice what the disciples asked Jesus, or better yet what they didn't ask Jesus. They never said, “Hey Jesus, teach us to pray so we can do cool stuff like that too.” No, rather they asked the same thing we would, which was, “**How did the fig tree wither away so soon?**” Or I like how they said it in the Message bible “**Did we really see this? A leafy tree one minute, a dry stick the next?**”

So it was all a question out of curiosity and wonderment at what Jesus had just done, not them asking Jesus to teach them to pray so they can do fancy things like this. Yet some turn it into a way to pray and to try and get things from the Lord, like I said earlier that they use it as a Honey Do List for the Lord. Now if you are younger, you may be wondering, “What's a Honey Do List?” It's used jokingly as a list of things that a wife has for her husband to do around the house, you know, things like, mow the lawn, trim the trees and bushes, fix the leaky faucet, clean the garage, paint the bathroom, etc. Simply, Honey, these are things I need you to do around the house, type of list.

Now I am not against having a Honey Do List in prayer, I just think that we have it backwards. Yes, we are the bride of Christ, but shouldn't we be going to Him for our Honey Do List for each day instead of telling God what we want Him to do? Plus also think that if you are truly reading

this verse in it's proper context, and what Jesus said, "***whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive***" I would think that yes, as a believer; and that is key, so I will repeat it, "As a believer" when we go to God in prayer, the things we ask for will be our basic needs, but also more important, things that would bring glory to His name and further the Kingdom of God, not our kingdom and not so we can have stuff. As we go to God in Prayer, and if we truly pray, "*Not my will but Your will be done Lord*" like we like to quote a lot, aren't we then asking for a Honey Do List from the Lord for ourselves, wanting to know how we can minister to others and be pleasing to the Lord? And we also learn this from Jesus speaking almost the same words in the book of John.

† **John 14:13-14** *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

You will receive it because Jesus will do it.

† **John 14:14** *And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive*

† **Matthew 21:22** *If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

So, if you ask the Lord for a Honey Do list each day, then I wonder if He will give it to you, then as a result that, "***whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.***" If we did, I believe that we would see more answered prayers, and more people being blessed, and more people being added to the Kingdom of God.

† **John 15:7-8** *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*