

Matthew 7:6-12

January 6, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - Morgan King is a 21-year-old student at the University of Tennessee. She has a 3-month-old daughter, and recently she missed class because the Child Care she arranged for her daughter fell through. She emailed her professor, Dr. Sally Hunter, to explain her absence and this was the response she received:

“Hey Morgan,

We were wondering where you were this morning. I'm so sorry to hear that childcare issues caused you to miss class today... In the future, if you're having trouble finding someone to watch Korbyn, please bring her with you to class. I'd be absolutely delighted to hold her while I teach, so that you can still pay attention to the class and take notes. I work for the department of CHILD and FAMILY Studies--so how terrible would it be, if I was unwilling to have a child visit our class? I'm absolutely serious with this offer--please bring Korbyn with you! By the way, don't worry about the quiz you missed; and your absence from class today is considered "excused." Let me know if there are any other ways I could be supporting you!”

Dr. H.

How to respond to your friends.

1. Don't be hypercritical.

2. Don't be hypocritical.

1 Cor. 11:28-31 - Let a person *examine himself*, before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning... eats and drinks judgment on himself... If we *judged ourselves truly*, we wouldn't be judged.

Ps. 139:23 - Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

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3. Be helpful.

How to respond to your foes.

David: The dogs have surrounded me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed me. (Ps. 22:16)

Philippians 3:2 - Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers.

John 18:33-37 - Pilate went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about Me?" Pilate replied, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your own people and chief priests handed You over to me. What is it You've done?" Jesus answered, "My Kingdom isn't an earthly kingdom. If it were, My followers would fight to keep Me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But My Kingdom isn't of this world." Pilate said, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I'm a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."

Acts 17 - While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw in the city. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there... When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, but others said, "We want to hear more about this later." So Paul departed from among them.

Jamie Ricci: St. Francis of Assisi had a deep commitment to both the proclamation and embodiment of the Gospel. St. Francis never sought to elevate action over speaking in the task of bringing the Gospel, but neither did he believe that the Gospel was only a message to be communicated. Francis recognized that the Gospel was all consuming. He embraced the truth that the Gospel he proclaimed with his

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mouth was given credibility by the character of the life he led. And in the same way, he knew that, in spite of his own failings (and that of other Christians), the proclaimed message of hope and love would find fertile soil in the hearts of others, and so that Gospel must be proclaimed.

How to respond to your Father.

Pray persistently.

Kent Hughes: The treasures Christ gives are eternally ours and eternally satisfying. But perseverance is the key. We may wonder why God wants us to persist intensely for things He wants to give us. The answer is, He wants to give us great spiritual treasures, but He won't give it to us until we're ready. Persistent prayer prepares us for those treasures.

Pray confidently.

I asked for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn to humbly obey.
I asked for health that I might do great things;
He gave me grace that I might do better things.

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I asked for riches that I might be happy;
He didn't give them that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I received little that I asked for,
but everything that I'd hoped for.
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.
