

Don't Stop Asking

God, Are You Listening?

A man was walking through a forest pondering life. He walked, pondered, walked, and pondered. He felt very close to nature and even close to God. He felt so close to God that he felt if he spoke God would listen.

So he asked, "God, are you listening?"

And God replied, "Yes my son, I am here."

The man stopped and pondered some more.

He looked towards the sky and said, "God, what is a million years to you?"

God replied, "Well my son, a second to me is like a million years to you."

So the man continued to walk and to ponder... walk and ponder...

Then he looked to the sky again and said, "God, what is a million

dollars to you?"

And God replied, "My son, my son...a penny to me is like a million

dollars to you. It means almost nothing to me. It does not even have

a value it is so little."

The man looked down, pondered a bit and then looked up to the sky

and said, "God, can I have a million dollars?"

And God replied, "In a second."

The key to receiving is to ask. But you have to make sure you are asking for the right thing. James the brother of Jesus gives us the benefit of his wisdom in the New Testament when he writes in James 4: 1—4 the same thought. So many times we think our prayers are going no further than the ceiling of the room we are in when we pray. But God is listening. He listens to more than just the words we say, He listens to our hearts. And if we are asking for the right thing, God will give us what we are asking for in His own time.

To explain this concept to His disciples, Jesus uses the parable of the unrighteous Judge. You can find it in Luke 18: 1—8. (READ IT). Unlike the judge in the parable, God is certainly righteous and He cares for us more than we know. He will give us what we need and sometimes, He will bless us with what we want. And as a demonstration, of this very thought, Jesus practices what He preaches in the Gospel Lesson we read today.

God does answer prayers. Sometimes the answers can be yes, sometimes no. Sometimes we must wait for a reply. But God is working out His perfect will on our behalf and the future for us is eternal life. It's kind of like watching a movie

we've seen before, we know how it's going to end, but it's still fun to watch how it all works together.

When the answers aren't forthcoming, it can be very discouraging, but we need to continue in faith to ask in prayer. God is listening and He will answer us. It may just take a second.