

RECEIVING REQUESTS

In my household I do most of the cooking. I am not a fancy cook by any means. My meals tend to be very plain and old style. My wife and daughter will sometimes put in requests to their cook. My wife's requests usually come at breakfast asking for poached eggs, or for oatmeal cooked on the stove. Lately, my daughter has been requesting me to make her a breakfast sandwich.

Fulfilling this request starts off with me frying up some bacon. Then in a separate fry pan I make an omelette that has a piece of Black Forest ham inside with melted cheese. After I complete my work at the stove, I assemble the sandwich. Usually, I will place the omelette and bacon on a croissant and then spread some cream cheese on the inside of the bread. The heat from the omelette and bacon ever so slightly melts the cream cheese.

After a garnish of salt and pepper, the breakfast sandwich is ready to serve along with a side of fruit. My daughter sits down, places a dab of ketchup on the plate and digs in. The cook in me naturally asks her how it tastes. Lately her reply to me has been, "Dad, you just keep getting better and better at it!" When she asked me to make her this breakfast sandwich last week, I found myself smiling and thinking how enjoyable it is for this "plain-style" cook to start having people request their favorites from me.

This experience from last week got me thinking how much it must please God whenever He fulfills our requests. Jesus encouraged us to bring our requests before God when He said:

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)

Jesus wanted to assure everyone through these words that if we persist in pursuing God and wanting to know Him, we will be rewarded in our efforts. After we come to know God and have a relationship with Him, we are encouraged through Jesus' teaching here to also make our requests known whether it might be asking for patience, wisdom, understanding, or help. This persistence on our part when it comes to our requests to God is meant for us to draw closer to Him and get to know and trust Him more completely.

The problem some people struggle with when their requests are not always immediately met is they can become frustrated or discouraged. I was reminded of this when my daughter stopped into Tim Hortons one morning to order a farmer's bacon breakfast wrap. Instead of getting what she requested, she discovered, once she opened it, that they had forgotten to put any bacon inside. She had already driven off by the time she made this discovery. Naturally she was discouraged and frustrated as we all are when we do not get what we requested.

At times our human nature shows frustration toward God when He does not do what we request. The more we mature in our faith, though, the more we will come to understand that God does not always give us what we request. We just need to look at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when He requested for the "cup of suffering" to be taken away from Him. Three times Jesus made this request of the Father, but understood each time it had to align with the Father's will. Even though Jesus did not get His request, He still showed trust and faith that the Father's plan to achieve our forgiveness was best through the cross.

Let's follow the example Jesus displayed on the night He was arrested to keep bringing our requests to the Father. It pleases the Father whenever we do so. Even if the Father says no to our request, we can come away with the same assurance, comfort, and peace that Jesus did that He has something better in store for us.

The cook in me is pleased that my "breakfast sandwich" is tasting really good according to my daughter. My only worry by sharing this information is that I may be getting some requests from those who read this to make it for them. I better get more bacon and eggs on hand. I wonder what I could charge?

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean