



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 7:7-12

“A Wonderful Word”



Mt. 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Review

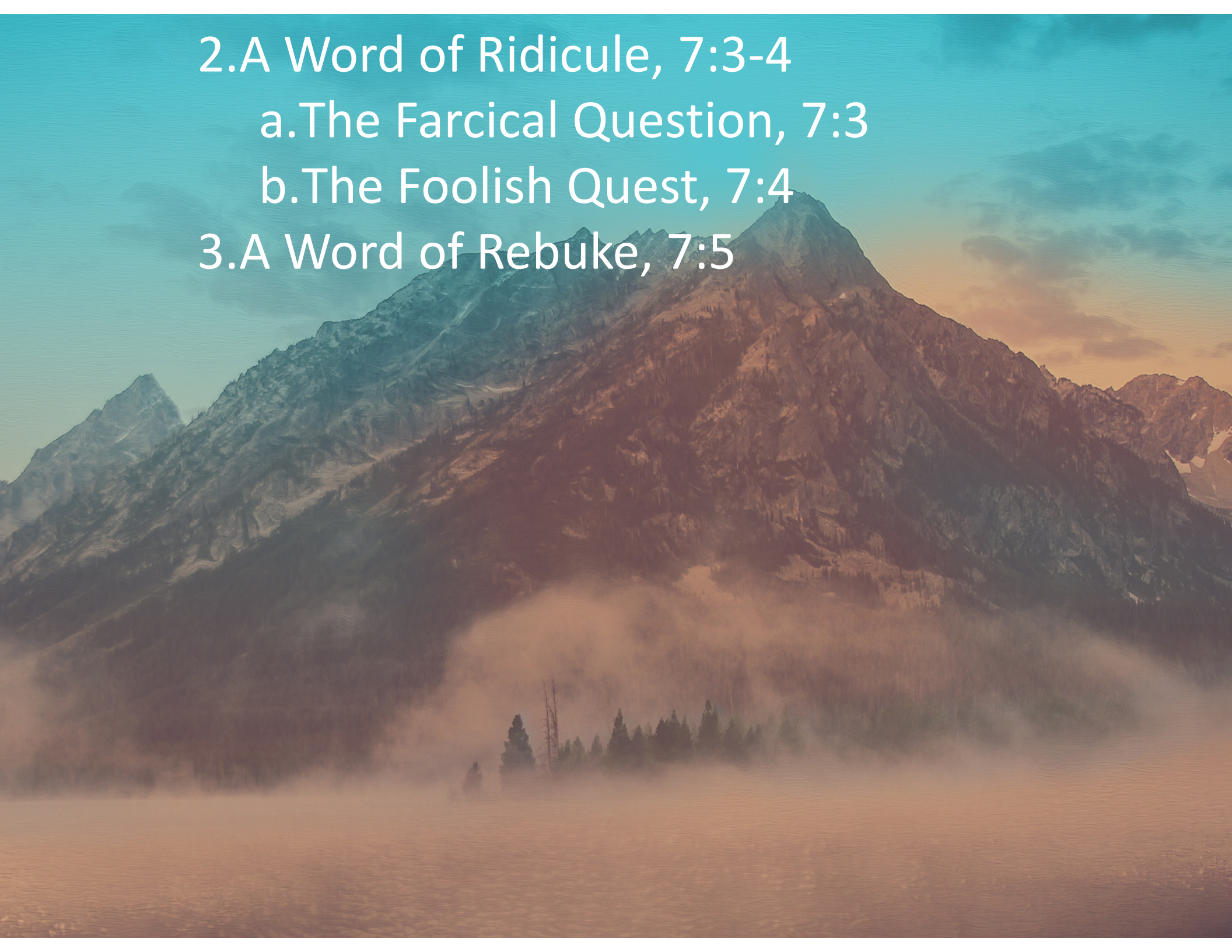
- I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16
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In Mt. 7:1-5, Jesus taught His disciples not to be judgmental toward their brethren. Then He taught them to be judicious in discernment of false teachers and their false doctrine. How can believers do that? The present text is the answer = **divine assistance via prayer**. As we come to this passage on prayer, we enter into an area of righteousness and faith that will test the maturity of the believer. Righteousness is needed for fellowship and faith for the engagement of prayer.

Heb. 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Jas. 5:16b “...The effectual fervent **prayer of a righteous man** availeth much.”

B. The Father Extolled, 7:6-12

1. The Father's Love Revealed, 7:6-11

a. A Warning Word, 7:6

b. A Wondrous Word, 7:7-11

(1) The Invitation Extended, 7:7

Mt. 7:7 **A**sk, and it shall be given you; **s**eeK, and ye shall find; **k**nock, and it shall be opened unto you:

- ❖ This section of verses brings the main body of the Sermon to a climactic conclusion.
- ❖ The A.S.K. verbs are all imperative verbs → Ask—Seek—Knock.
- ❖ In view of such rigorous demands and hard opposition, Jesus' disciples need to pray for God's help. He will always respond positively to their words, though others may reject them (v. 6).

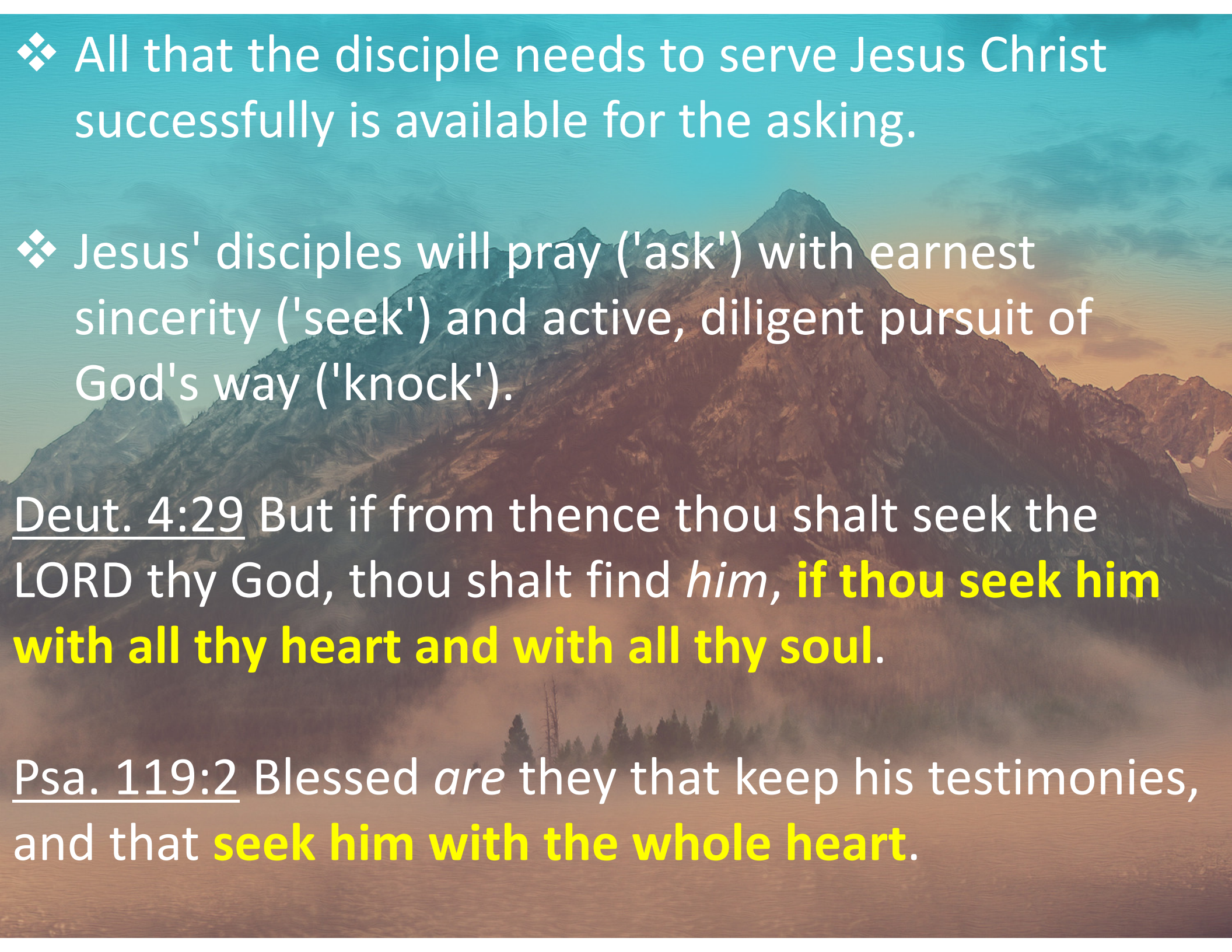
(2) The Invitation Expanded, 7:8

Mt. 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

❖ The petitions of the disciples must be for His glory rather than for selfish ends.

Jas. 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, **yet ye have not, because ye ask not.**

3 Ye ask, and receive not, **because ye ask amiss**, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

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- ❖ All that the disciple needs to serve Jesus Christ successfully is available for the asking.
 - ❖ Jesus' disciples will pray ('ask') with earnest sincerity ('seek') and active, diligent pursuit of God's way ('knock').

Deut. 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find *him*, **if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**

Psa. 119:2 Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, and that **seek him with the whole heart.**

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, some with patches of snow. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water, likely a lake, reflecting the sky. The sky is a mix of light blue and soft orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

Jer. 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, **when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

Jas. 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

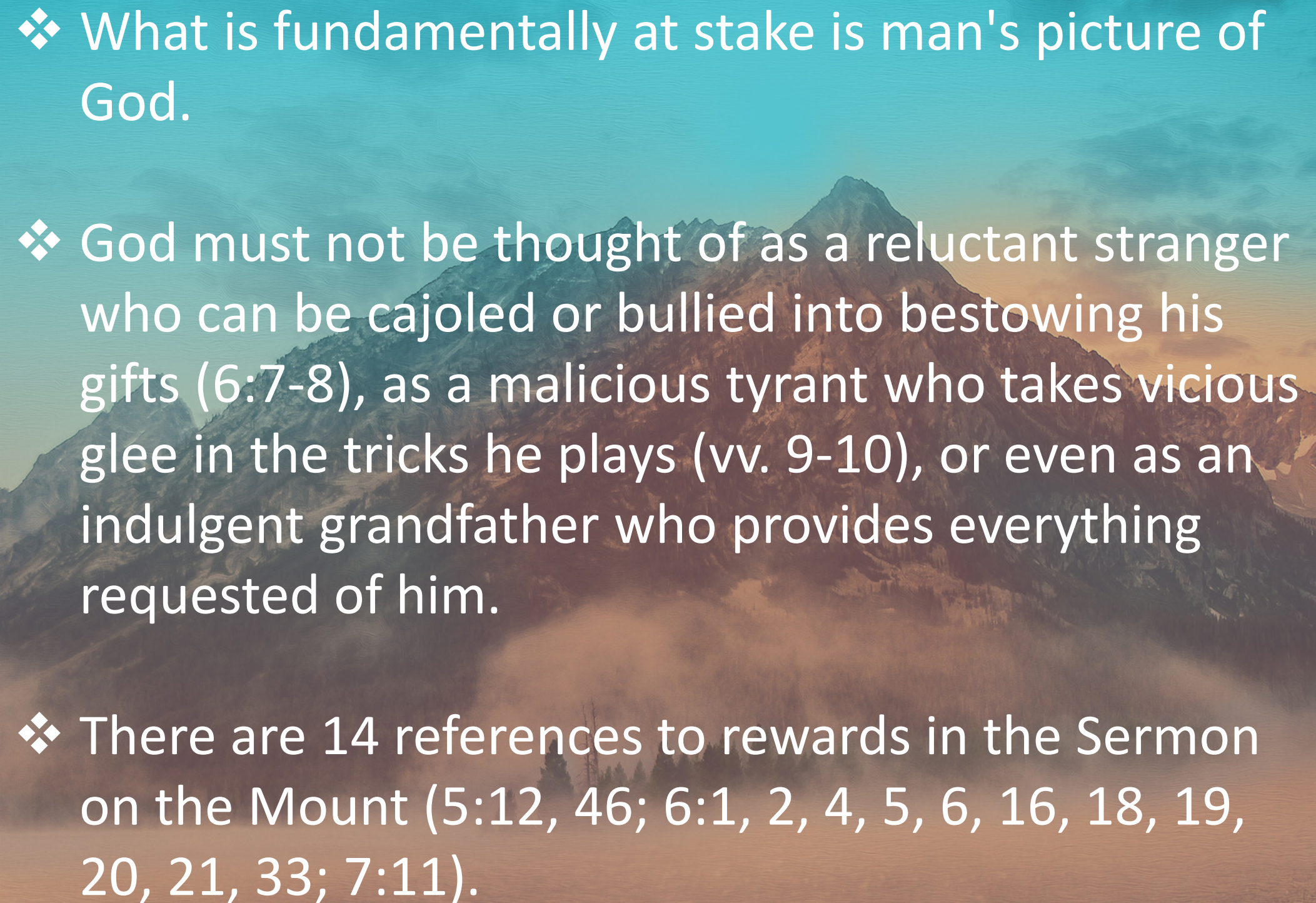
(3) The Invitation Explained, 7:9-11

(a) The Goodness of a Human Father, 7:9-10

i. Will He Give a Stone, 7:9

Mt. 7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

❖ In verses 9 and 10, Jesus put the matter of verses 7-8 in two other ways.

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- ❖ What is fundamentally at stake is man's picture of God.
 - ❖ God must not be thought of as a reluctant stranger who can be cajoled or bullied into bestowing his gifts (6:7-8), as a malicious tyrant who takes vicious glee in the tricks he plays (vv. 9-10), or even as an indulgent grandfather who provides everything requested of him.
 - ❖ There are 14 references to rewards in the Sermon on the Mount (5:12, 46; 6:1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 33; 7:11).

❖ While the desire for an eternal reward may not be the highest motivation for serving Christ, Jesus held it out as one motivation, as did other New Testament writers.

❖ The greatest motivation for serving the Lord is “faith which worketh by love.” (Gal. 5:6b)

ii. Will He Give a Snake, 7:10

Mt. 7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

❖ A mature indication of righteousness is praying for the little things – “bread” or “fish.”

(b) The Goodness of our Heavenly Father,
7:11

i. The Comparative, 7:11a “If ye then, **being evil**, know how to give good gifts unto your children...”

❖ Even though parents are "evil" (i.e., self-centered sinners), they do not typically give their children disappointing or dangerous counterfeits, in response to requests for what is wholesome and nutritious.

❖ Much more will the heavenly "Father," who is pure goodness, "give ... gifts" that are truly "good" to His "children" who request them. In the parallel passage in Luke 11:13, what is "good" is identified as "the Holy Spirit."

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

ii. The Superlative, 7:11b “...how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

❖ He is the heavenly Father, the God of the kingdom, who graciously and willingly bestows the good gifts of the kingdom in answer to prayer.

1 Tim. 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and **especially for those of his own house**, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

"If you should ask me to state in one phrase what I regard as the greatest defect in most Christian lives I would say that it is our failure to know God as our Father as we should know Him."

Barclay, William. *The Gospel of Matthew*. 2 vols. The Daily Study Bible series. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 1964. 1:222.

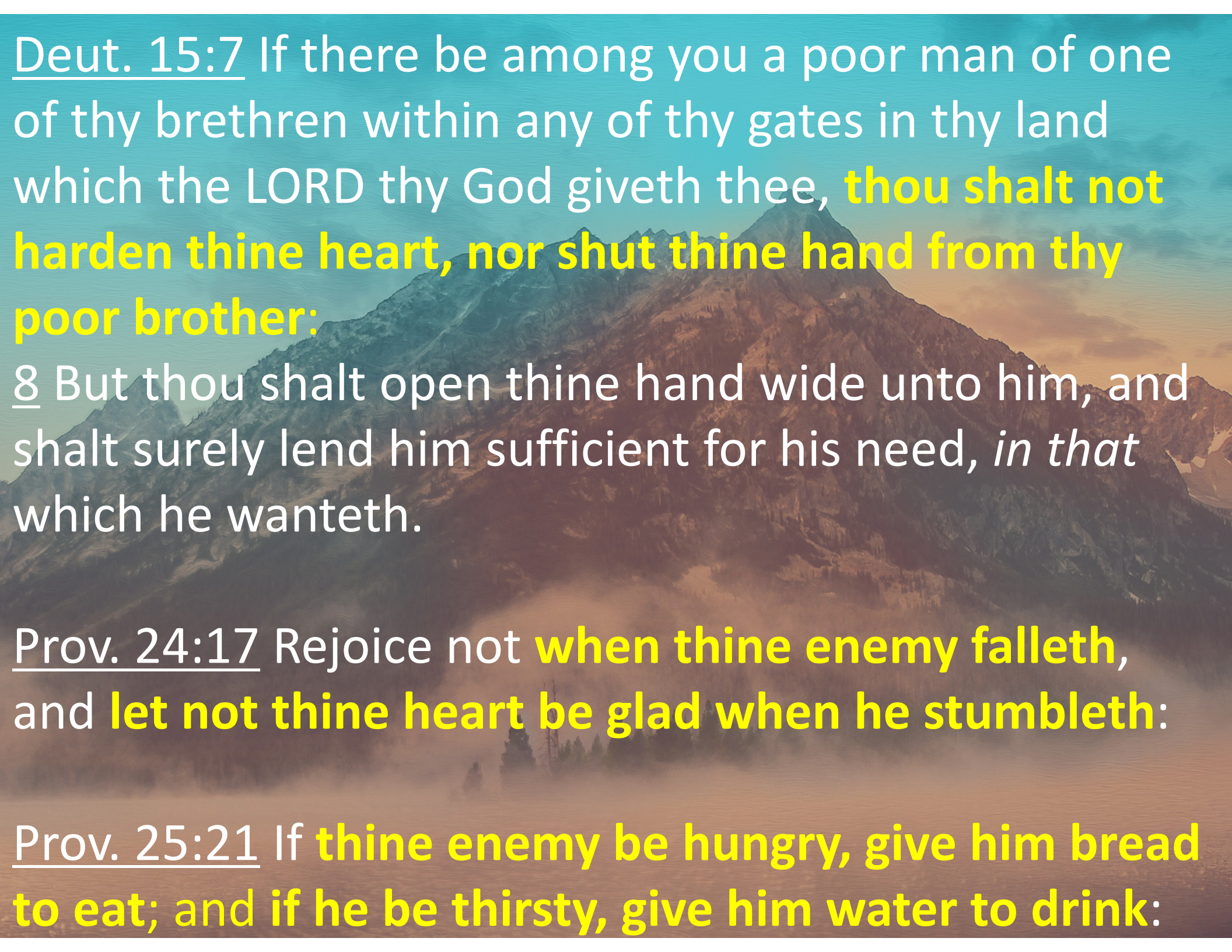
2. The Father's Love Reproduced, 7:12

Mt. 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

❖ “The Golden Rule” encapsulates “...the law and the prophets.”

Lev. 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.**

Ex. 23:4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, **thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.**



Deut. 15:7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, **thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:**

8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, *in that* which he wanteth.

Prov. 24:17 Rejoice not **when thine enemy falleth,** and **let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:**

Prov. 25:21 If **thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat;** and **if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:**

Conclusion

- ❖ Jesus' disciples are in view as the "children" praying here (cf. 5:45).
- ❖ The good things they request have direct connection with the kingdom, things such as ability to follow God faithfully in spite of opposition.
- ❖ God has ordained that we ask for the good gifts we need, because this is the way He trains us, like a Father, not because He is unaware or unconcerned about our needs (cf. 6:8).

A simple acronym to use when praying is ACTS:

Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings:
and **grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness
they may speak thy word, ...**

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken
where they were assembled together; and they were
all filled with the Holy Ghost, and **they spake the
word of God with boldness.**

1 Thess. 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

17 **Pray without ceasing.**

18 **In every thing give thanks:** for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.