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What's the Magic Word?

By Rick Artis

Scripture;

Matthew 5:5, 6:5-8, 7:7-12

5:5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

6:5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Theme:

Asking your heavenly Father, in the appropriate way

Applications:

Prayer
Needs
Getting along with people

Cast:

2 women

Setting:

Any place two women might meet for a chat
Kitchen over coffee
Starbucks

Chance meeting at the doctor's office
At the grocery store

Time:

Unspecified daytime

Characters:

Janet Harrison
Susan Dexter

Performance time:

Approx. 5-6 minutes

Janet-

So there they were, in the hallway, just *screaming* at each other.

Susan-

You make it sound like this is unusual.

Janet- (*laughs*)

Yeah. Not so unusual, but this was different. Most times, Kim just stands and stares at Danny, like 'he's such a jerk'. This time she was in his face, screaming right back.

Susan-

Something must have happened.

Janet-

That's what's so weird. It wasn't what happened that caused her to react.

Susan-

What was it?

Janet-

According to Kim, Danny came into her room wanting whatever it was that she had at that moment. And rather than asking for it nicely, he snapped at her, just repeating "Can I have it? Can I have it? Can I have it?" She said that she didn't really care, but she didn't like *the way he was asking*. Apparently, he didn't use the Magic Word.

Susan-

The whole fight was because he didn't say 'please'?

Janet-

I think it was a little more than that. It seems Kim thought his demanding attitude was too much to bear. As if, he deserved to have whatever it was and she didn't. Like he was better than she was and therefore he should get whatever he wanted.

Susan-

Sounds like Danny was bring a bit of a brat. No wonder Kim resented it. How did you handle it?

Janet-

Once I got them to stop screaming at each other...

Susan-

No easy task, I'm sure.

Janet-

No easy task indeed. I then reminded them of some of the stuff we learned in that sermon series last year about prayer. You remember, the Pastor was talking about the hypocrites who stand on the corner wishing to be seen by the masses and how He basically lets them get out of it just what they want, the praise and admiration of men.

Susan-

I remember. He said, "God doesn't feel obligated to act when our attitude is wrong or when our motives are selfish."

Janet-

Right. He talked about meekness and humility. Boy, was I convicted about that. Too many times I would get demanding in my prayer time. I tell ya, being meek and humble went right out the window.

Susan-

You too? I thought I was the only one.

Janet-

I would pray in secret, as the Matthew passage tells us. So in my prayer closet, just like the persistent widow, I would bang on God's door over and over again. Sometimes I would bang pretty hard, but no results. Fortunately, God was protecting me from myself.

(Continues...)