

Series: New Year Reminders

Sermon: Ask God For More

Passage: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Illustration:

Need: God delights in His children who desire to be used more and empowered more and protected more by Him.

I. The random guy with a painful name (1 Chronicles 4:9)

- Jabez is a descendent of Judah. We are not sure who his father was or if he had children of his own.
- In the end, Jabez was remembered as being more honored (weighty; impressive) than all his brothers.
- At his birth his mother gave him a name that meant “pain, sorrow, grief,” but we are unsure why.

II. The prayer he prayed and the God who answered (1 Chronicles 4:10)

- Despite the appearance, Jabez was not selfishly asking God to make him rich and influential.
- Jabez asked God to make him more than his name implied. Show me Your divine favor.
- Jabez asked God for a bigger stake in His divine plan. Give me more opportunity to serve you.
- Jabez asked God for His sovereign power and leading. Direct my life through your power.
- Jabez asked God to protect him from the path that leads to pain. Keep me from evil & the pain it causes.
- What Jabez asked pleased God and He “granted what he asked.” God delights in those who pursue Him.

III. NT Instructions when asking God for More

- Matt. 7:7-8 - God still invites His children to eagerly and persistently ask of Him.
- James 4:2-3 - Our requests must employ the right motivation.
- John 14:13-14 - Asking in the name of Jesus means “according to His will/desire.”
- Eph. 3:20-21 - We cannot ask too big; our God is more than able.

IV. 2023 Reminder #2: Ask God For More!

- Refuse to believe lie that there is little that God will do through you for whatever reason or reasons.
- Refuse to be satisfied with little when there is far more that God can do. Seek Him for more!