

FEBRUARY 26 FATHER FRANCES SALASAR

There is a story about a six-year-old boy named Leo. Leo was absolutely convinced that a treasure chest was hidden in his attic. One day, he had noticed the corner of an old trunk tucked away in the shadows, and from that moment on, his imagination took over.

For days, he pleaded with his parents. “Can we go to the attic? Please? I need to get the treasure!” His parents, caught up in the busyness of work and daily responsibilities, kept responding, “Not now, Leo.” “Maybe later.”

But Leo did not give up. His requests became more elaborate. He drew treasure maps. He crafted a “key” out of cardboard. Finally, one rainy Saturday, his father—worn down by the persistence—sighed and said, “Alright, Leo. Let’s go to the attic.”

He pulled down the folding stairs and lifted Leo up. Leo rushed straight to the corner and discovered not a chest of gold, but his grandfather’s old trunk. Inside it was a brass compass. To an adult, it was ordinary. To Leo, it was priceless. He ran downstairs—not carrying gold, but carrying something far richer: a story, a connection to his grandfather, and the joy of having his searching rewarded.

His father watched quietly, realizing how close he had come to dismissing the moment entirely—because he assumed the request was childish and the treasure imaginary.

So often, we approach God the same way. We assume our prayers are small, our longings unrealistic, and the doors firmly shut. We pray half-heartedly. We knock once or twice, cautiously. And when the answer

does not arrive immediately or in the form we expect, we turn away and say, “I knew it. God isn’t listening. The door is closed.”

Into this posture of resignation, Jesus speaks words that are startling in their confidence:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

This is not a promise of a spiritual vending machine. Jesus is not saying, “Say the right prayer and get exactly what you want.” Notice instead, the movement in his words. Asking acknowledges need. Seeking admits that something is missing. Knocking recognizes that there is a barrier, a door we cannot open by ourselves. Jesus names our human condition: we are needy, we are searching, and we often stand on the outside.

And then he calls us to action—not passive waiting or cynical doubt, but persistence. Ask. Seek. Knock. The verbs imply continuity: keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking.

Why? Because of who stands on the other side of the door.

Jesus grounds this bold promise not in the strength of our faith, but in the character of God. “Which of you,” he asks, “if your child asks for bread, would give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, would give a snake?” Even with our flaws and limitations, we know how to care for our children. We may fail, but we do not delight in deception or cruelty.

“If you,” Jesus says, “who are imperfect, 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?”

God is not a reluctant giver. He is not a trickster. He is not stingy with grace. He is a loving Father whose heart is inclined toward generosity.

This is why the final line of today’s Gospel is not an unrelated moral slogan, but the natural conclusion of everything Jesus has been saying: “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.”

When we live in a trusting relationship with a generous Father, it reshapes how we treat others. We no longer live from fear or scarcity, but from abundance. We stop seeing others as rivals for limited blessings and begin to recognize them as fellow children of the same Father. The Golden Rule is not simply a command to “be nice.” It is the overflow of a heart that has experienced God’s generosity.

If God gives us bread, how can we offer stones to others?

If God protects us from snakes, how can we hand them to our neighbor?

So where does this Gospel meet us today?

Perhaps you have stopped asking. You prayed for healing that did not come, for a relationship that broke apart, for a dream that quietly died. You asked. You sought. You knocked. And what you received felt like silence—or worse, disappointment.

Today, Jesus invites you to look again. Is it possible that the compass is already in your hand, even though the chest of gold is not? Is it possible that the closed door redirected you toward a path you needed but could not yet see? Keep asking—but ask also for the grace to recognize God’s goodness. Keep seeking—but seek his presence more than his solutions. Keep knocking—but trust the heart of the Father who waits behind the door.

And perhaps some of us live as though everything is scarce—time, love, forgiveness, mercy. So, we cling, we compete, we protect. Jesus reminds us today: your Father is infinitely generous. His resources do not run

dry. You can afford to be generous because your supply comes from God himself.

The key to the treasure is trust. The true treasure is not a thing, but a relationship with the Giver. The door that opens does not lead to a life without problems, but into the living presence of God.

So be bold. Be persistent. Be expectant. Like little Leo, take that cardboard key of imperfect faith and climb the stairs. Ask. Seek. Knock.

The Father is listening.
And he gives good gifts.