

Following The Way Of The Kingdom: Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

First Methodist Church of Tulsa
Fall 2025
Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson

Session 7: Relationships (Matt. 7:1-12)
October 29, 2025

MATTHEW 7:12

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

1. What are you most tempted to judge people for? Why do you think that is? What do you think people are tempted to judge you about?

2. What is the most valuable thing in your life? Would you share it with a complete stranger? Why or why not?



3. Do you think God will give you what you ask for in prayer? Whether yes or no, why is that? Do you struggle to trust God as a good father who will provide for your needs? Why?

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So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- I. Recap - follow the thread
- II. Relationships - I changed the title from the syllabus because Jesus' teaching here goes beyond just the issue of judgment. It's about how we relate to other people, whether friend or foe.
 - A. Matthew 7:1-5
 - 1. One of the most famous verses in the Bible today!
 - a) People tend to focus on verse 1, leaving the context out of it.
 - b) Literally an imperative (Do not judge) and what's called a subjunctive (usually words modified by might, would). Do not just so that you might not be judged.
 - c) Now, sometimes people treat this as a corollary to the Golden Rule (do unto others as you would have them do unto you.)
 - d) But that's not what this passage is about. There's a connection here between this section and the passage at the tail end of the Lord's Prayer in 6:14-15

- (1) In the Lord's Prayer, we're called upon to forgive and in vv.14-15, we're told that we'll receive forgiveness in the same way that we forgive others.
- (2) That's a terrifying reality for some people!
- e) In 7:1-5, we're told that we'll be judged (Hebrews 9:27) with the same measurement by which we judge others.
 - (1) What does it mean to judge?
 - (2) *krinō* as a technical legal term means to judge, to bring to judgment, or condemn.
 - (3) We are not the judge, jury, and executioner. Only God can do that.
 - (4) We are to exercise judgment as to what is right and wrong based on the Scriptures, but it is not our place to condemn someone to the pit of hell.
 - (5) So, I can say that Hitler's actions were beyond reprehensible but I cannot say "I condemn him to hell." Only the true and righteous Judge can do that.
 - (6) The reason we cannot condemn is because God is the judge and also because we don't even see ourselves clearly.
 - (a) vv.3-5 tell us that we often condemn without looking clearly at our own selves.
 - (b) A good prayer for this is Psa. 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

B. Matthew 7:6

1. Treasure, value, worth.

- a) What do we do with valuable things? Protect them. Not just material things, but truly valuable like our hearts.
- b) Perhaps it means not correcting (cf. Mt 7:1-5) those who would not listen (cf. Prov 23:9). Perhaps it means giving only to those who want what one offers, as God does



C. Matthew 7:7-11

1. This passage, on the heels of v. 6 tells us something important.
2. God is concerned with that which is valuable. He knows what is good and valuable.
3. Ask! Because even earthly fathers want to give good gifts to their children.
 - a) Keener - Fish and bread were basic staples, integral to the diet of most of Jesus' hearers; they do not stand for the fineries of the wealthy.

D. Matthew 7:12

1. Golden rule.
 - a) Almost a basic morality.
 - b) Important in all of our relationships
 - c) "For this is the law and the prophets" - Mt. 22:40 - On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.