

Matthew 7

Jesus

- **Sermon on Mount:** Mat. 5,6, and 7 to be read/understood/taught **as one unit**

Matthew 7:29 [After Sermon] People Astonished...He taught them as **one having authority**, and not as the scribes.

1. **Ch. 5** Jesus destroys "I'm a good person" mindset most have Can't save yourself
2. **Ch. 6** Jesus dismantles self-righteous motives of Religious Cant be saved by Religious System
3. **Ch. 7** Jesus dissects any stragglers that might be left over Leaving all ...Naked/Exposed before Him

I. Do not Judge

1 "Judge not, that you be not judged."

Among those who seem to know nothing of the Bible, this is the verse that seems to be most popular. Yet most of the people who quote this verse don't understand what Jesus said. They seem to think (or hope) that Jesus commanded a universal acceptance of any lifestyle or teaching. [Guzik]

We make judgement/determinations all day long: Right/Wrong/Good Bad

- **What does Jesus mean when He says "Do not judge"?**
- **Context:** Ch. 5-6 is **Self-Righteousness** ...

Do not judge a person's Spiritual condition based on **your own standard**
Do not judge a person's Spiritual condition based on **their appearance**

Luke 18:9 [Example] [Jesus] spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and **prayed thus with himself**, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, '**God, be merciful to me a sinner!**' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Pharisee judgment of the man was wrong: Humility brought close to God
- Pharisee judgement of himself was wrong: Pride/Arrogance betray Security/Assurance

The guy on his way to hell judging the guy on his way to heaven

2 For with what judgment **you judge**, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

- **Law of Reciprocation**

1. Show mercy Receive Mercy
2. Forgive Receive Forgiveness
3. Judge/Condemn Receive judgment/condemnation

- By the same standard we judge others...others will in turn judge us

If we feel judged/condemned today...
Maybe it's because we tend to judge/condemn others?

1 Samuel 16:7 ... man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart

- **Do not judge:** Based on our self-righteous standard or their appearance
 1. **Does not mean** we don't share the Gospel w/unbelievers
 2. **Does not mean** we don't warn unbelievers of sin/consequences

Colossians 1:27 ... [We preach Jesus] **warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom**, that we may present **every man** perfect in Christ Jesus."

- **We are to save...not condemn**

John 3:17 ...God did not send His Son into the world to **condemn the world**, but that the world through Him **might be saved...18b** he who does not believe is condemned already

John 16:8 [Holy Spirit] will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...

Judging the world is God's job...He sees hearts we don't
Not an excuse for us not to share the hard truths of the Word

If a person confesses that they don't believe in Jesus and deny Him as Savior but are still open to listening, it is not judging to warn them from Scripture that unless they repent before they...die hell is their destination. It would be the ultimate apathy and even hatred not speak up...even as the devil tries to shut us up. [NJC]

- **Privilege/Responsibility to ...**
 1. Share truth in love to those who don't yet believe
 2. Pray in faith for eyes to be opened
 3. Allow God convict their hearts
 4. Be there to lead them to Jesus

- **In church:** We don't need professional fault finders/sin sniffers...

3 And **why do you look** at the speck in your **brother's eye**, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? **4** Or **how can you say** to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? **5 Hypocrite!** First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- **Picture**
 1. Man w/8 Foot 2 x 4 sticking out one eye [plank-eye] notices speck
 2. Tries to get speck but can't get close because of lumber in eye
- **Point**
 1. Plank-eye is a Self-Righteous Hypocrite blinded to sin of pride. **In God's eyes...**
 2. His sin strikingly more outstanding the person he seeks to "help"

- **Lesson:** Deal with own sin/humble yourself before trying to help others with theirs

6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

- Do not judge...but do have discernment

Those that treat the Gospel with contempt Jesus calls Dogs and Pigs

- Don't waste time w/some people. Why?
- You can't argue someone into the Kingdom of God

Proverbs 9:7 "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you..

**If they begin to trample precious Gospel begin tear you to pieces
Do not continue to share the Truth with them. Period.**

- Pray/Look for hearts ready for the Gospel
- If not kick the dust off shoes/move on

There are hearts made ready today. You won't know them by appearance but by...

- Praying for Spiritual Discernment
- Their reaction to Gospel presentation. E.g. Van guy

Note: Jesus calls us to judge/determine if people are dogs/pigs by reaction to Gospel

After He warned us against judgmental attitudes and self-blind criticism, Jesus here reminded us that He did not mean to imply that the people of His Kingdom suspend all discernment. [Guzik]

SUMMARY Do not Judge

II. Keep Asking, Seeking, and Knocking

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- **Prayer:** Asking, Seeking, Knocking
- **Persistence/Passion in Prove** we are pretending when we pray

James 1:6 ... ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.

Every true asker receives; every true seeker finds; and every true knocker has the door opened to him. Will you not try it, and prove for yourself that it is even so? [Spurgeon]

9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much

more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- If our Father's want to give us good things how much more God our Father?

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him!"

Matthew 6:3 ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Begins with praying for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. God's gift.

- **Father desires to bless His kids.** We are not a burden. Love sound baby crying
- **Temple veil was ripped:** Took the death of the Son of God to gain entrance

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come **boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- **Father knows best...**

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

12Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

God's gracious response to us/our needs should translate into
Our gracious response to others when they are in need

- What would we want someone to do for us? Now do it for them.

Matthew 22:36 [Pharisee expert in Law asked Jesus] "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' 40 On these two commandments hang all the **Law and the Prophets.**" [c.f. Lev. 19:18]

- We love God by loving others as ourselves fulfilling both commandments

SUMMARY Keep Asking, Seeking, and Knocking. God will be gracious to you. Now be gracious to others and fulfill the whole of Scripture.

III. Narrow Way

13 "Enter by the **narrow gate**; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to **destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

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|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▪ Narrow way | Difficult/Few find | Word of God is their guide |
| ▪ Broad way | Easy/Many find | False-prophets/World their guide |

15 "**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in **sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will **know them by their fruits.**

Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

- False prophets appear on way to Narrow Gate but are not
- On way to hell and want to take you with them...

Matthew 23:15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

- **3 Groups of People in World**

1. Believers Narrow road
2. Non-believers Broad road
3. Make-believers Trying to jump the gate...

- **False-Prophets:** Counterfeits God never sent/gave authority to...

1. Wolves in Sheep's clothing: Ravenous wolves wanting to eat sheep
2. **Known by fruits...**

- Drawing men to self
- Causing Division

Religious deceivers are the worst of vermin, and I fear they are as plentiful as rats in an old wheat stack. ... I loathe to hear our true Lord praised by false lips. They deny the doctrines which He taught, and yet babble about believing Him. It is a shallow trick, but yet it deceives shallow souls. [Spurgeon]

- **Fruit of False-Prophets** Drawing men to self/Causing Division/Damnation
- **Fruit of True Teachers** Salvation exemplified in...

1 Timothy 1:5 ... love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith...

- Pointing people to Jesus/Teaching of the Word in context and correctly

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.

- Beware False-Prophets...

False Prophets: Trust in your own goodness and righteousness. Most people are going to heaven except the very, very bad and you're obviously not one of them, nor am I. Name what you want in your prayers and claim it and when you get it send me some. [see Ch.5]

True Teachers: You have no hope within yourself, No hope in your own goodness, No hope in your own righteousness. You are not a good person. You're are a sinner bound for hell unless something changes and you can't change it... but Jesus can and will as we place our faith in Him alone and accept His perfect righteousness as a free gift of His Grace.

- **Beware False-prophets:** Make Believers

21 **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,'** shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Notice Jesus is Judge at Judgement...Those who say to Me Lord, Lord

- **In that Day:** Day of Judgment many will say...
 1. We prophesied *in Your Name*
 2. We did miracles *in Your Name*
 3. We cast our demons *in Your Name*

Successful Ministry does not guarantee knowing Jesus

All of these thing Judas also did...

Acts 1:16 Judas ... became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was **numbered with us** and obtained **a part in this ministry**. 25 ... [Apostles seeking someone...] to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to **his own place**.

Words you never want to hear? I never knew you...depart

- How can you be sure?
- **Knowing Jesus as Lord:** Exemplified both Listening to Him/doing what He says...

24 **"Therefore** whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 **"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."**

- **Rock man**
 1. Built house/Life on **Rock** Heard Jesus Words and heeded them
 2. Trials came Stood strong

2 Chronicles 17:6 [King Jehoshaphat listened and acted] And **his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord**; moreover, **he removed the high places** and wooden images from Judah.

- **Sand man**
 1. Built House/Life on **Sand** Heard Jesus Word and walked away
 2. Trials came Collapsed

Proverbs 10:25 When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous

has an everlasting foundation.

**May our lives be founded on the Solid Rock of the Word of God
Listening and taking heed to what Jesus taught...**

28 And so it was, **when Jesus had ended these sayings**, that the people were **astonished at His teaching**, 29 for He taught them as **one having authority**, and not as the scribes.

- **Jesus concludes Sermon on Mount**
- **Taught as One having authority.**

Not... I think, maybe, if it feels right to you, might be this or that...

This is the way it is...take it or leave it.

- **People were astonished** at His teaching...

When we really understand Jesus in this Sermon on the Mount, we should be astonished also. If we are not astonished, then we probably haven't really heard or understood what Jesus has said. [Guzik]

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3. **Ch. 7** Jesus dissects any stragglers that might be left over...

All stand naked before Him

Hebrews 4:13 ...there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- Standard to enter Heaven? Perfection

Matthew 5: 48 Therefore you shall **be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

Praise God for His grace and the free gift of Salvation to those who believe
My hope is built on nothing less...Than Jesus' blood and His righteousness.