



SERMON ON THE **MOUNT**

**“Discernment, Prayer,
and the Golden Rule”
Matthew 7:6-12**

**⁶“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.⁷“ Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?
Matthew 7:6-12**

**¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!¹²“Therefore, in all things, whatever you want people to do for you, so do for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 7:6-12**

Introduction

A. As pastors and elders, we will receive a stricter judgment (James 3:1). We must accurately handle the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

B. God gives pastors and elders to churches to equip the saints for the work of service, to build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

¹Do not, many of you, become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.

James 3:1

¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:12

Introduction

C. In Matthew 7 we are learning about kingdom judgment. In 7:1-5 we learned that kingdom citizens are to exercise biblical judgment without being judgmental.

D. Big Idea: Kingdom citizens are to exercise righteous judgment and demonstrate righteous living.

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

⁶“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Matthew 7:6

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

A. We have already learned in Matthew 7:1-5 that Jesus does not command us to stop judging others.

B. Rather, He commands us to measure others with biblical standards while we first and foremost judge ourselves as sinners in need of constant forgiveness.

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

C. We must first deal biblically with our own sins (1 John 1:9) and then we are able to help others deal biblically with their sins.

D. Christianity is not a personal, private religion. It is evangelistic. It is persuasive and expansive and missionary.

⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

E. It's not coercive. It does not use the sword, manipulation, or brainwashing. But it does proclaim and persuade and plead and pray.

F. Christianity is a soul-winning, mind-persuading, heart-entreating, rescuing, missionary faith, or it's not true Christianity.

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

G. We are commanded to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors and to the nations.

H. What are we to do when we encounter ongoing opposition to God's truth?

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

I. 7:6. We are to practice spiritual discernment as we faithfully share the gospel. If people are antagonistic to the good news and stubbornly reject the message, Jesus commands us to offer the gospel to others elsewhere.

**J. Jesus and His apostles demonstrate this teaching in their evangelistic ministries.
(Matthew 10:14; Acts 13:44-49)**

¹⁴And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you leave that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

Matthew 10:14

⁴⁴And the next Sabbath, nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.

⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, blaspheming. ⁴⁶Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded

us,

‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE

Acts 13:44-49

**GENTILES,
THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE
END OF THE EARTH.’ ”⁴⁸And when the
Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and
glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many
as had been appointed to eternal life
believed. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was
being spread through the whole region.
Acts 13:44-49**

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

**K. When people continue to reject, mock, and
blaspheme the truth of the gospel, Jesus tells
us to move on and share the gospel with
others.**

I. See Others with Spiritual Discernment (7:6)

L. “One of the lessons we need to learn, therefore, is to live with the cost of our message being rejected. While that is heartbreaking, we are taught in Scripture that it will happen. Forewarned is forearmed. We are not taken by surprise by rejectors of the gospel. We do not mindlessly continue to offer Christ to people irrespective of their response” (Sinclair Ferguson).

II. Seek Our Gracious God and His Kingdom (7:7-11)

⁷“ Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

Matthew 7:7-11

II. Seek Our Gracious God and His Kingdom (7:7-11)

A. There are two possible interpretations for these verses. Think through these with me.

B. The first interpretation is Jesus knows His disciples are going to need to learn to persevere in prayer and trust their gracious heavenly Father as they engage with sinning brothers and lost people.

II. Seek Our Gracious God and His Kingdom (7:7-11)

**C. “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him”
(James 1:5).**

**D. The second interpretation is Jesus is shifting His attention away from His disciples and focusing on the people present who are not trusting in Him for salvation.
(Matthew 7:28)**

²⁸Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching;

Matthew 7:28

II. Seek Our Gracious God and His Kingdom (7:7-11)

E. At the conclusion of the body of His sermon, He teaches how people can be saved and become kingdom citizens.

F. These verses focus on appeal to a gracious God for entrance into the kingdom.

II. Seek Our Gracious God and His Kingdom (7:7-11)

G. “Jesus’ intention was to stress that eschatological salvation is a gift granted to His disciples who approach God as spiritual beggars (5:3) and humbly plead for God to give them the undeserved privilege of entering His kingdom” (Chuck Quarles).

II. Seek Our Gracious God and His Kingdom (7:7-11)

H. Notice the graciousness of the heavenly Father in verses 9-11.

I. The heavenly Father is a good, good Father. No one who genuinely seeks His kingdom will be denied entrance. (7:8)

III. Show Everyone What Righteousness Looks Like (7:12)

¹²“Therefore, in all things, whatever you want people to do for you, so do for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 7:12

III. Show Everyone What Righteousness Looks Like (7:12)

A. The “therefore” points back to the immediately preceding verses that focused on the generous nature of the heavenly Father.

B. Jesus repeatedly tells us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to imitate the Father (5:44-45, 48).

III. Show Everyone What Righteousness Looks Like (7:12)

C. Since the Father selflessly gives to meet the needs of His children, His disciples should also seek to treat others the way they want to be treated.

D. Verse 12 is the summation of the character God requires of His people.

III. Show Everyone What Righteousness Looks Like (7:12)

E. This principle is a summary of “the Law and the Prophets.” It is also a paraphrase of the second great commandment: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39; Leviticus 19:18).

III. Show Everyone What Righteousness Looks Like (7:12)

F. It's not surprising that the "Golden Rule" does not emphasize our relationship to God. The preceding verses have already taught us that we are totally dependent upon God for our salvation and our Christian life.

III. Show Everyone What Righteousness Looks Like (7:12)

G. "Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8).

H. Show everyone what righteousness looks like as the Holy Spirit transforms you and you live your life for the glory of God.

Conclusion

- A. No one ever meets Jesus and stays the same.**
- B. Are you being made more and more into the image of Christ?**
- C. Are you battling your flesh daily?**

Conclusion

- D. Do you see more of Jesus in you than you used to see?**
- E. Have you sought God and His kingdom?**
- F. Are you saved and at the same time being saved?**

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20