

“Sermon on the Mount – Chapter 3”

Matthew Chapter 7

Jesus Sermon Outline

Chapter 5 - The Disciple of the Kingdom of Heaven's relationship with his own internal standard
(Be-Attitudes; Be-Effecutals; Be-Outstandings)

Chapter 6 - The Disciple of the Kingdom of Heaven's relationship with his Father in Heaven
(Hypocrisy Prohibited in Giving, Prayer & Fasting; Realizing your Father in Heaven knows & cares for you)

Chapter 7 - The Disciple of the Kingdom of Heaven's 1) relationship with others and 2) Living Life on the Rock.
(Judging, Discernment, and a Walk Maintained through prayer and heeding of warnings)

Mat 7:1

1) Judging and Discerning vs 1-6

JUDGING

Jesus has pointed out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and scribes. It seems that He is aware of our ability to go too far. He is limiting us to not be too critical.

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

- This is one of the most quoted yet misused verse in the Bible.
 - The Backsliders Bible has only two verses in it. This one and **John 8:7** “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.”
- Texts that tell us NOT to Judge
 - **Luke 6:37** “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.”
 - **James 4:11-12** “Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?”
 - **John 12:47-48** “If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”
- Texts that tell us to judge
 - **John 7:24** “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”
 - **1 Corinthians 5** the entire chapter is Paul dealing with sin in the church and is demonstrating to the tolerant Corinthians how to judge sin and to put out the “so called brother” from among them
 - **1 Corinthians 6:1-4** “Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? Or do you not know that **the saints will judge the world?** If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that **we will judge angels?** How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? I say this to your shame. **Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,**”
- The confusion becomes clear when you see the words used.
 - **JUDGE** (Greek = *krino*) can mean determination, choice, to select to have an opinion and also can mean to condemn.
 - “**WAY YOU JUDGE**” verse 2 or KJV “judgment” (Greek - *krima*) means to condemn or to sentence with punishment.
- It is clear with a word study that a Christian is to use his heart, mind and soul to discern between right and wrong, and to make proper choices. It is also clear that we are able to make a determination between a Christian and a non-Christian.
- It is also clear that we are NOT to pronounce judgment upon Christians and non-Christians. This is the role of only one Judge.

We break this command when we think the worst of others.

We break this command when we only speak to others of their faults.

We break this command when we judge an entire life only by its worst moments.

We break this command when we judge the hidden motives of others.

We break this command when we judge others without considering ourselves in their same circumstances.

We break this command when we judge others without being mindful that we ourselves will be judged.

Mat 7:2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

- This Sermon on the Mount has been consistent from the beginning that Jesus is changing convention.
 - He said earlier those who mourn or are poor in spirit or are persecuted have reason to be happy. He said murder and lust isn't just an external sin but it is done from within the heart. He tells us that our giving, prayer and fasting shouldn't be done in hypocrisy.
 - Here he is now telling us that Judgment is like a boomerang. It WILL come back on us.
- What an incredible motivation for us to be generous with mercy.
 - If I show judgment, criticalness towards others the same will be shown to me.
 - If I show mercy towards others the same will be shown to me.
 - **Matthew 18:23-35** tells of a story of a man forgiven a huge debt, who then turns and unmercifully casts a fellow servant into debtors prison for a small debt. Jesus said concerning that attitude "*And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.*"

Jesus gives an illustration:

Mat 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

Mat 7:4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?"

Mat 7:5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- Jesus gets our attention. Everyone has had something get in their eye. It hurts. We all identify with painfully trying to get it out. Nothing else matters at that time.
- A Speck shouldn't be there. In this illustration it shouldn't be there. It's painful and needs to come out.
- Plank - **John 8:7** Jesus once caught a group of men passing this very same judgment with a plank in their eye. A woman caught in adultery was brought out to be stoned. When the men asked Jesus what should be done to her Jesus said "*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her*" and stooped down to write in the dirt with his finger.
- This illustration demonstrates to us how awful our own sin looks on others.
 - We justify ours
 - On others we cannot even tolerate a speck of sin. This is HYPOCRICY
 - **2 Samuel 12** - David had sinned with Bathsheba and covered it up by killing her husband. The prophet Nathan came to David and told of a Rich man who stole a poor man's only lamb to sacrifice for a dinner party. The rich man had plenty of his own but took the poor man's only lamb. DAVID WAS FURIOUS and said that rich man should die. Nathan declared "*Thou art the man*"
- It is important to see that the speck needed to be removed. It is important that we have help from our brothers and sisters in the Lord to remove specks in our eyes. But there is a proper way.
 - We should first examine ourselves
 - We should first deal with our own sin
 - After it is dealt with in our life (however long that is)
 - THEN we can confront others.

Mat 7:6

DISCERNING

It is as if Jesus knows our tendency to take things and run with them. Immediately He addresses that by telling us that we ARE to be discerning.

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

- Dogs / swine are generally those who are not believers. Jews referred to the Gentiles as dogs. Swine were an unclean animal. It was clear on the Jewish mind that Jesus was not referring to them.
- What is Holy is speaking about kingdom stuff, the pearls or precious treasures the believer cherishes.
 - The Bible
 - Communion
 - The Cross
 - The Hope of the 2nd Coming

We have all seen when an unbeliever has mocked and desecrated these things.

- In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul has to correct the church in the kingdom treasures of the Love Feast and Communion. He tells them that they are behaving badly and becoming drunk at the Love Feasts and they are not revering the Communion table as they ought. He said.
 - **1 Corinthians 11:27-30** *“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.”*
- The unbeliever will take the Kingdom Treasures and *“tear you to pieces”*
 - Jimmy Carter said he had committed adultery with lust in his heart. We, the believer understood. Playboy and the world attacked him for it
 - Jesus loving people (sinners) was judged as a wine bibber and a glutton.

Mat 7:7

2) Living Your Life on the Rock vs 7-29 (The Rock from verse 24 - Building (Living) on a rock)

Living by Asking for Help

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Mat 7:8

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- This is the sermon declaring the Kingdom of Heaven.
- This is the second time prayer is brought up in His sermon. IT MUST BE IMPORTANT!
- Such a promising hopeful declaration. He actually repeats it two times. Did you not get it the 1st time
 - Ask and it **will** be given
 - Seek and you **will** find
 - Knock and it **will** be opened
- Our prayers should be done with this hopeful expectation. Also the tense of these verbs are “continual”
 - **Luke 11:5-9** *“Then He said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, **yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**”*
- Another issue is that there is a lack that drives us to each of these three forms of prayers.
 - Ask - You have a need
 - Seek - You don’t have something that you should
 - Knock - You are prohibited or restricted
- To ask for help; to realize something is missing; to knock on helps door requires humility.
 - **2 Chronicles 7:13-15**
(Need) “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

(ASK) My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

(OPENING) Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.”

Mat 7:9

"Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?

Mat 7:10

"Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

Mat 7:11

"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 what is good to those who ask Him!

- Jesus gives us an example of the nature of God. He is illustrating that God desires us to come to Him as a child come to a Dad.
- Remember in chapter 6 Jesus was establishing something unique to the Jews. He was declaring the God, the Holy, so holy you didn’t pronounce His name; this God is *“your Father in heaven”* He was clarifying the relationship.

- On Father's day my son and daughter try to figure out what I want or what would please me or how to honor me on that day. Grilling ribs, Bowling, Going out to eat, or being treated to a movie all kinds of things are offered up. They are great. But one thing far exceeds them all.
 - A hug -
Holding,
Unashamed affection,
Good
- The really cool thing here is God is asking that we ask. He wants that relationship with us.
 - How sad that people go to church, give a tithe, serve and yet do not realize they can have a relationship like that with the Creator God. My Father in Heaven.



Mat 7:12

Living the Example

"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- The law states this positive "Golden Rule" in negative form. Do Not Steal. Do not Lie. Do Not Murder. Do Not Commit Adultery. Rabbi Hillel in A.D. 20 summarized the Law by saying "What is hateful to you, do not do to others."
- The negative form is good but the positive form is better. It actually accomplishes things.
- The Positive form is this. Be doing things to and with others as you would have them do with you.
- It has to start somewhere. Let it begin with you.
- It has to start sometime. Let it begin right now.
- Knowing this rule you can have a vicious cycle or you can have a wonderful cycle.
 - Vicious - Someone does something nasty to you. Well they must want that done to them. So you do something nasty to them. Then they think that you want you must want nasty done to you. It goes on and on,
 - Wonderful - Someone does something nasty to you. Well, maybe they do not understand this "Golden Rule", but I do so I'll treat them with kindness and try to reverse the cycle. It might take awhile but Kindness will turn away wrath. (Prov 15:1) Eventually they will turn around if I do not quit.

Mat 7:13

Living the Road Less Traveled

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

Mat 7:14

"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- "ENTER" - Jesus is asking for you and I to ENTER. This sermon is the "Declaration of the Kingdom of Heaven" And here is His action point. ENTER IN!! Jesus does not want us to walk away from this entrance.
- There are TWO Gates and there are TWO Ways of living.

Narrow Gate Leads to Life Few are walking this way
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Broad Gate Leads to destruction Many are walking this way



- Look around you. Are most people going the way you are going? If they are WAKE UP!! Are you still living life according to what your friends or others are doing? GROW UP!!! It leads to destruction. You can tell it is the way because it is easy way.
- The Narrow way is more difficult. Yet it is the only way that leads to life.
 - Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
 - John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Mat 7:15

Living with Your Eyes Open

"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

- Jesus in His declaration He gives a warning against False Prophets. There is a way that leads to destruction and there are those that will help lead us there.
- Prophets are those who by the Word of God steer and guide people to a strengthened relationship with God.
- A False Prophet may look or act like they are using Gods Word but their purpose is not to strengthen your relationship with God.
 - They have a job, a career, they are getting rich.
 - How can you tell them? They are not grazing on the grass. They're feeding on the sheep.

Mat 7:16

"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they?

Mat 7:17

"So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

Mat 7:18

"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

Mat 7:19

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:20

"So then, you will know them by their fruits.

- Jesus is stating that you CAN know these false prophets. You do not have to fear of being deceived. You CAN know.
- Look at their fruits.
- The fruit of a ravenous wolf is his self interests. He is concerned about his self. It is about him.
 - Is his manner of life righteousness, humility and faithfulness
 - Is his teaching Bible centered or is it Man centered.
 - Is his ministry effectual in strengthening believers or entertaining believers.

Mat 7:21

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

Mat 7:22

"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

Mat 7:23

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

- Many a Christian fear this passage. They ask "Am I the kind of person who says Lord Lord but I have never been known by the Lord?"
- The context is the False Prophets. If you are a false prophet than you should rightly fear. Because they have never been known by the Lord.
- But for those of us who are not false prophets this passage teaches us something.
 - Saying Lord Lord isn't enough. If all we do is say Lord Lord but do nothing kingdom worthy than we should be ashamed.
 - Kingdom worthy is not just religious stuff. It is the "*will of the Father*". Again Jesus is stressing the relationship. One must be in a relationship to know what the Father's will is.
 - This is the person who attends church yet their daily life away from church has nothing to do with Jesus.
- "*On that day*" - that day is a day of judgment when we stand before the Lord. On that day the relationship is the ticket for entrance into the kingdom.
- If you are still in fear of this passage there is an easy solution. Right now call on the Father ASK him, Your Father for a relationship. Ask for forgiveness. Seek Jesus the narrow way. Repent from your own Broad way of living and seek Jesus and His Lordship of your life.

Mat 7:24

Living as a Wise Builder

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and **acts** on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Mat 7:25

"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Mat 7:26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and **does not act** on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Mat 7:27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

- Everybody is a builder. We are building our lives. How we live is how the building of our life will look like.
- Jesus contrasts two builders. Much will be the same. But there will be one important difference that will have an incredible effect.

Wise Builder Hears Word Acts on them - Building on the Rock Storm Comes (Life Happens) The Result = it Stands
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Foolish Builder Hears Word Does not act on them - Building on the sand Storm comes (life happens) The Result = It Falls
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- Have you ever noticed a new subdivision being built? They clear the area and they start do the infrastructure. Roads, sewage, utilities. It takes forever. And it seems nothing recognizable is being accomplished. Then all of a sudden you start seeing the framing of the houses. You start recognizing what looks like a garage, a house. And it seems that it finishes quickly and people are moved in.
- When the storms come we who live our lives there are glad that the foundation is built correctly.
- Bill Hybles - Willow Creek - Seeker Friendly model failure to fix they brought in Bible teachers
- John Arnot - Toronto Blessing nothing to sustain in harsh life Brought in teachers from Dallas Theological Seminary to teach the Bible.

Mat 7:28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;

Mat 7:29 for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

- Jesus finished and people were amazed. The word here is more troubled, because they realized change is coming.
- The Word of God should cause a change in you. You should realize that
 - It is either bad preaching or
 - It is bad hearing. Which is it for you?

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