

# Matthew 7:1-14

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- **REVIEW...**

- o The Sermon of the King...
  - The LONGEST public teaching recorded in the New Testament - **Matthew 5-7**
  - Teaching disciples – those who want to learn – how to be CITIZENS of the KINGDOM of God...
  - Beginning with the Beatitudes – Jesus established we are POOR in Spirit...
  - And knowing that is what allows us to be a Citizen of the Kingdom – because it drives us to Jesus!
- o Relationship with God
  - Jesus went on to define how to LIVE as a CITIZEN – how to RELATE to God in SIX ways...
  - FIRST - we are to GIVE in secret – because it shows a heart for God...
  - SECOND – we are not to PRAY in secret – talking to God – not to be seen by men...
  - THIRD – we must FORGIVE everyone – everything – every time – just as we were forgiven...
  - FOURTH – we are to FAST in secret – denying the physical so we can strengthen the spiritual...
  - FIFTH – we are to store up our treasures in HEAVEN – so we have a HEART for God...
  - SIXTH – we are NOT to WORRY – about our PHYSICAL needs [food – clothing]
  - Because we have this PROMISE – seek God FIRST – and He will give us everything we NEED!

- **1<sup>st</sup> – Do Not JUDGE... vs. 1-6**

- o 1<sup>st</sup> – Relationship with Others...
  - Having established how to become a Citizen of the Kingdom [we are NOT good]
  - And having moved on and define how to LIVE as a CITIZEN...
  - FIRST – by telling us how we are to RELATE to God [SIX ways]
  - FINALLY – Jesus will now tell us how we are to RELATE to each other!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – Motives... vs. 1-2
  - The command... vs. 1
    - Judge not - that you be not judged!
    - FIRST - do not JUDGE [imperative] others – or we will be JUDGED [passive]
    - JUDGE [κρίνω] – 114x in NT – to CONDEMN – have an OPINION about someone
    - This is NOT talking about our relationship with God...
    - This is talking about how we are to interact with OTHERS – do NOT judge them!
    - I have heard people say you CANNOT judge me – only God can judge me...
    - And to some extent I think I understand what they mean – but we need to be careful!
    - While it is true we cannot judge the INTENT of the heart...
    - We absolutely can JUDGE their actions – by comparing them to the Word...
    - If what someone is doing in CONTRARY to the Word – then we can say it is WRONG...
    - But we CANNOT judge WHY someone does something – what their MOTIVE is...
    - Only God knows the motive of the heart - only He can Judge that!
    - Psalm 44:21 - “For He knows the secrets of the heart.”
  - The reason... vs. 2
    - For with what judgment you judge - you will be judged.
    - And with the measure you use - it will be measured back to you!
    - The REASON why we are NOT to JUDGE is because it will come back to us...
    - However we JUDGE [present] others – is how they will [future] JUDGE us...
    - We same way we MEASURE [μέτρον] others – is how they will [future] measure us!
    - James [brother of Jesus] gave us a scenario in a church...
    - A rich man walks in with fines clothes – gold rings – he is invited to sit in the best seat...
    - A poor man follows – wearing rags – he is told to sit on the floor!

- **James 2:4** – “Have you not shown partiality [κρίνω] among yourselves - and become judges!”
  - We tend to make snap judgements of others – based on how they LOOK...
  - Or we read into simple GESTURES – without taking the time to learn their MOTIVES...
  - But when we are JUDGMENTAL of others – they tend to be JUDGMENTAL of us...
  - Better to think the best of others – do NOT assume their intentions...
  - Then other people will tend to think the best of us and our motives!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – Speck in the eye... vs. 3-5
- Seeing Sin... vs. 3
    - Why do you look at the speck in your brothers eye...
    - But do not consider the plank in your own eye!
    - Sometime the Greek can inadvertently have a funny connection to Ilonggo...
    - Having stated that we are NOT to JUDGE others – the very next word is TEH [τί]
    - We can easily SEE [active] the SPECK in our brothers EYE...
    - SPECK [κάρφος] – a small piece of straw or dust...
    - Yet we do NOT stop and CONSIDER [we do see it] the BEAM in our own EYE...
    - BEAM [δοκός] – a LARGE piece of TIMBER used to support a house...
    - Because the SPECK and the BEAM are likely the same thing!
    - If you were to put YOUR finger in front your EYE – it would seem SMALL to me...
    - But if were to put MY finger in from of my EYE – it would seem HUGE...
    - Both ways it is a FINGER that is blocking our VISION!
    - We tend to see the SINS in others – that we are also struggling with...
    - We are the most JUDGMENTAL – when we also are GUILTY...
    - If we are GREEDY we SEE greed in others - if we have PRIDE we JUDGE the prideful...
    - We like to point out their flaws - because it takes the focus off of OUR own...
    - By pointing out THEIR sin – we can justify ourselves that we are not as bad!
  - Our Sin First... vs. 4
    - How can you say to your brother - Let me remove the speck from your eye.
    - And look - a plank is in your own eye!
    - HOW can we demand [imperative] to pull the SPECK out of our brothers eye...
    - While we still have the BEAM blocking our own vision!
    - When I was a child I used to go every year to summer camp...
    - I got into a fight – and a boy shoved a broom into my right eye – scarring my pupil...
    - I had to go to the EYE doctor and get treatment...
    - Imagine if that doctor – had a large BEAM coming out of his EYE...
    - I would have said NO thank you – I do NOT need your help!
  - Hypocrite... vs. 5
    - Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye.
    - Then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brothers eye!
    - If we JUDGE others – pointing out their SIN [speck]
    - Just so that we can look BETTER – we are being a HYPOCRITE [ὑποκριτής] – TWO faced...
    - We are NOT really trying to HELP them – we are USING them to make us look better...
    - Therefore – FIRST cast out [imperative] the BEAM from our EYE...
    - THEN we can see CLEARLY to remove [future] SPEC from the EYE of our brother!
    - If I told someone I would help them overcome DRUNKENNESS...
    - As I was holding a bottle of BEER in my hand – they would be right to doubt me!
    - We CANNOT take people to a place we have NOT been...
    - In order to lead them to VICTORY over sin – we need to be VICTORIOUS...
    - Not that we are PREFECT – but we are seeking the ANSWER – looking to Jesus...

- Because then we will have the right MOTIVE – not JUDGING others to look better...
- But coming along side others – so they also can also be set FREE!
- **I Corinthians 11:1** – “Follow [μιμητής] me as I follow Christ.”

o 4<sup>th</sup> – Not for Pigs... vs. 6

- What is Holy...
  - Do not give what is holy to the dogs. Nor cast your pearls before swine!
  - There is a WARNING that Jesus gives we need to pay attention to...
  - We are called to come along side our BROTHERS – **Galatian 6:1**
  - But we are NOT to cast [subjunctive] what is HOLY [ἅγιος] before DOGS [unbelievers]
  - And do NOT give [subjunctive] our PEARLS [wisdom] to PIGS [backsliders] – **II Peter 2:22**
  - We CANNOT help people who do NOT want to be helped...
  - If we give the HOLY [ἅγιος] Word to unbelievers who do NOT want the TRUTH...
  - Or if we give PEARLS of wisdom to backsliders who are NOT open to CORRECTION...
  - It will NOT have any effect – because their hearts are NOT ready!
  - **Hebrews 4:2** – “The word which they [hear will] not profit them - not being mixed with faith.”
- Not received...
  - Lest they trample them under their feet - and turn and tear you in pieces!
  - If we insist on reaching out to the DOGS and SWINE...
  - They will likely [subjunctive] TRAMPLE our words under their feet [ignore what we say]
  - Then TURN on us – and ATTACK [subjunctive] - tearing us to pieces!
  - People do NOT like to be told they are SINNERS – told they are WRONG...
  - They will likely as not – turn their ANGER on us – and ATTACK...
  - That does NOT mean we do NOT share the Gospel to SINNERS – **Matthew 28:19-20**
  - It does NOT mean that we do NOT reach out to our BROTHERS – **Hebrew 3:13**
  - What is means is we NEED to be led by the Spirit of God...
  - So that we know what we are saying is NOT judgmental – it is done in LOVE!
  - **Ephesians 4:15** – “Speaking the truth in love.”

• 2<sup>ND</sup> – GOLDEN RULE... vs. 7-12

o 1<sup>st</sup> – Keep Asking... vs. 7-8

- How to Ask... vs. 7
  - Ask - and it will be given to you. Seek - and you will find. Knock - and it will be opened to you!
  - Jesus begins by given us THREE commands...
  - FIRST - We must [imperative] continually [present] ASK what the Lord wants us to DO...
  - If we do – then God will [future] GIVE [passive] His will to us...
  - SECOND - We must [imperative] continually [present] SEEK where He wants us to GO...
  - If we do – then God will [future] SHOW us [passive] where we need to be...
  - THIRD - We must [imperative] continually [present] KNOCK on the door in front of us...
  - If we do – then God will [future] OPEN [passive] the door for us!
  - My uncle Jim was a NICE man – he would help anyone...
  - But he wanted NOTHING to do with Jesus – hurt by RELIGION when he was young...
  - My Dad shared Jesus with him for TWENTY years – but He always rejected...
  - He was diagnosed with CANCER – and went into a COMA...
  - My Dad was by his bed – he woke up and accepted Jesus – died the next day!
  - Often when we PRAY we give up after a week - or a month - or a year...
  - But God does not call us just to ASK once - God calls us to be continually SEEK...
  - We need to be persistently KNOCKING – and NOT give up!
- The Result... vs. 8
  - For everyone who asks receives - and he who seeks finds.

- And to him who knocks it will be opened!
  - EVERYONE [πᾶς] who is an ASKER [participle] receives [present] NOW...
  - EVERYONE [πᾶς] who is a SEEKER [participle] finds [present] TODAY...
  - EVERYONE [πᾶς] who is a KNOCKER [participle] the door will EVENTUALLY [future] open!
  - [participle] – takes a VERB [action] and makes it an ADJECTIVE [description]
  - EXAMPLE – someone might occasionally go for a run [verb]
  - But a RUNNER [participle] is someone who is defined by running!
  - We are to be DEFINED [participle] by CONTINUALLY coming to the LORD...
  - We are ASKERS – SEEKERS – and KNOCKERS...
  - Because we KNOW we have a GOD who ANSWERS – SHOWS – and OPENS...
  - When we get to heaven – we will be amazed at how much God wanted to do in our lives...
  - But it NEVER happened simply because stopped ASKING – SEEKING – and KNOCKING!
  - **James 4:2** – “You do not have because you do not ask.”
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – Who to Ask... vs. 9-11
- Earthly Father... vs. 9-10
    - What man is there among you who - if his son asks for bread - will give him a stone?
    - Or if he asks for a fish - will he give him a serpent?
    - Jesus uses the EXAMPLE of a FATHER to make His point...
    - What FATHER would give [indicative] his SON a stone [useless] – if he asked for BREAD...
    - Or give [indicative] his SON a SNAKE [harmful] – if he asked for a FISH!
    - Any parent can relate to this – we do not give our kids LESS than they ask for...
    - It is in our nature to give them MORE than they ask for – because we LOVE them!
  - Heavenly Father... vs. 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!
    - Even though ALL men are SINNERS [πονηρός] – even FATHERS – **Psalms 14:1**
    - They still know how to give GOOD things to their children when the ASK...
    - How much MORE will our FATHER in Heaven give GOOD [ἀγαθός] to the ASKERS [participle]
    - What is the GOOD that the FATHER will give to us!
  - Holy Spirit...
    - **Luke 11:13** – “Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”
    - All of this ASKING – SEEKING – and KNOCKING comes down to ONE thing...
    - We NEED the POWER of the HOLY Spirit to come into our lives!
    - The ministry of the Spirit can be broken up into THREE categories...
    - The Spirit is WITH [παρά] us – CONVICTING us of our SIN – pointing us to Jesus - **John 16:8**
    - The Spirit lives IN [ἐν] us – when we put our FAITH in Jesus – **John 20:22**
    - The Holy Spirit comes UPON [ἐπὶ] us - gives us POWER to live for Jesus – **Acts 1:8**
    - We NEED the POWER of the HOLY Spirit every day...
    - Therefore we as constantly asking the FATHER to give His SPIRIT to us...
    - So that we have the POWER to do what is impossible on our own...
    - To live our life by the Golden Rule!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – Do unto others... vs. 12
- Therefore - whatever you want men to do to you - do also to them.
  - For this is the Law and the Prophets!
  - THEREFORE – because we are FILLED with the HOLY Spirit...
  - Rather than being JUDGMENTAL of others – hypocritically tearing them down...
  - We instead are able to CONSIDER how we want them [subjunctive] to ACT towards us...

- However we want to be TREATED – is how we MUST [imperative] treat others...
- What we WANT is for others to LOVE us – therefore we must LOVE them...
- Because only LOVE – fulfills ALL of the LAW and the PROPHETS [commands of God]!
- When asked which was the GREATEST commandment – Jesus said there are TWO...
- LOVE the LORD your God with all your heart – soul – and mind – **Deuteronomy 6:5**
- And LOVE your neighbor as yourself – **Leviticus 19:18**
- **Matthew 22:40** – “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- This is NOT saying that people DESERVE to be LOVED...
- Lets be honest – people are STINKERS – they are HARD to LOVE...
- But it is NOT about WHAT they do us – it is about WHAT God DID for us...
- He has given us the EXAMPLE – He LOVED the UNLOVABLE – **Romans 5:8**
- And we likewise – filled with His SPIRIT – are called to LOVE sinners...
- Because in the end – there are only TWO roads!
- **3<sup>RD</sup> – Two ROADS... vs. 13-14**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Easy Way... vs. 13
    - Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction - there are many who go in by it!
    - FIRST – there is the WIDE gate – it allows ANYONE to come through...
    - It is at the END of the BROAD way – meaning LOTS of roads lead to it...
    - But this GATE leads to THE [ό] DESTRUCTION [ἀπώλεια]
    - ALL roads do NOT lead to heaven – they lead to the JUDGEMENT Seat – **Revelation 20:13**
    - This gate is WIDE – all RELIGIONS – faith in anything but Jesus – leads to it...
    - Sadly – there are MANY [most] people who are walking down it!
    - I was talking to Hallel the other day about follow the CROWD...
    - Lemmings are famous [though not entirely true] for going over cliffs...
    - I warned her NOT to be a lemming – know who you are following!
    - We need to be careful when we FOLLOW the crowd...
    - If everyone is doing something – going the same way – that does NOT mean we should follow...
    - Because most people are going the WRONG way – and are headed for HELL!
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hard Way... vs. 13-14
    - [We must] enter by the straight gate.
    - Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life - and there are few who find it!
    - SECOND – there is a NARROW gate – it is HARD to get through...
    - But the command [imperative] is that we MUST enter there...
    - Because even though it is DIFFICULT [trouble] – it is the ONLY way that leads to LIFE...
    - And there are FEW [a small minority] who find it!
    - The ONLY way to get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ – **John 14:6**
    - If there was any other gate – then the cross was a waste of time - **Galatians 2:21**
    - Which is why we are called to be DIFFERENT from those who are in the world...
    - Because we are filled with the Spirit [ask] – we have the power to live the Golden Rule...
    - So we can show a LOST world – the RIGHT way – the NARROW path that leads to Heaven!