Matthew 7:1-14

- **Review…**
  - 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!
  - 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!
- **1st – Do Not Judge… vs. 1-6**
  - 1st – 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!
  - 2nd – 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 3rd – 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 4th – 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 PEARS [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."

- **2nd – Golden Rule… vs. 7-12**

o 1st – 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 2nd – 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 – **Psalm 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 [ἐπί] 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 3rd – 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!

- **3RD – Two Roads… vs. 13-14**
  - 1st – 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 [ὁ] 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!
  - 2nd – 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!