

Matthew 7:1-28

Judging, Praying, Following, Building

Tonight we are going to finish The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5, 6 and 7,

A) Which presents the ethics, the standards, the values of kingdom living under King Jesus,

B) We pick up tonight in Chapter 7 – Jesus is going to hit on two main ideas – V.1-12 Judging

1) V.13-28 Following

C) Judging – Unbelievers/Prodigals and backsliders favorite verse:

Judge not, that you be not judged. (Jesus said Don't judge me man) **2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 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. 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.**

Judge not, that you be not judged.

What this DOESN'T MEAN? – Miss applied often.

A) This verse does not hinder us from saying that something is wrong!

B) It doesn't mean that you shouldn't call sin sin!

C) Because then the implication would be that we would be treating **GOOD AND EVIL – THE SAME!**

1) **NOT TOLERATION** – no absolutes

D) The Bible warns about that!

Isaiah 5:20 **"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness."**

A) Living in a world where everything is becoming GRAY!

B) Not RIGHT and wrong – no Absolutes – ALL PREFERENCE!

C) That is not what this means: Nor does it mean that we should never give a critical evaluation.

1) Elijah rebuked King Ahab for his wickedness

2) Samuel rebuked King Saul for his rebellion

3) Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for the hypocrisy

D) So this is not saying that we shouldn't call sin sin

WHAT this DOES MEAN!

A) The word judge in the Greek is Krino - It means TO JUDGE with a ONCE & FOR ALL JUDGMENT!

B) A harsh, self-righteous judgment, a hypercritical evaluation that pretends to know the motive of a person when in reality you don't have all the facts.

C) Example: Lets say you are counseling with a couple who are going through financial problems

1) We talk about being good stewards etc

D) A week later you see them walking into a very expensive restaurant –

1) I say to myself – No wonder they are having such financial problems – going to places like that

2) They clearly cannot afford

Here is what you don't know is that they are celebrating their anniversary – kids – gift card

A) That dinner is not costing them anything – Tip

B) Yet you judged them – Wrote them off – losers

C) Krino = **TO JUDGE TO CONDEMN!**

1) Idea is where you size someone up and WRITE them off!

D) Size them up – UmHm – Write them off! Umhm

1) He is done!

Jesus says don't be guilty of that! – Why?

#1 You are not God – you don't know the whole story – motives –

A) He is the final Judge

B) #2 Because Judgment is like a boomerang V.2

"With what judgment you judge, you will be judged.
With what measure you used, it will be measured back to you."

Judges Chapter 1. There was a Canaanite king named Adoni-Bezek.

A) Now Adoni-Bezek was captured by the Israelites and they cut off his thumbs and his big toes,

B) It's an odd passage. You go, "Why is that in the Bible?"

C) The idea of cutting off one's thumbs is to take away the dexterity,

1) the manipulative dexterity in the hands, you lose it, you lose the ability to fight, to wield a sword.

D) Taking off the big toe, you lose balance.

But still why is this in the Bible – seems cruel –

A) and what does it have to do with what we are talking about?

B) Well Adoni-Bezek had a custom of doing that very thing to every king he conquered

1) At the time of his capture – by the Israelites he had maimed in that way 70 other kings

C) So the Israelites gave him a dose of his own medicine

1) This was his response: Adoni-Bezek says, "There are 70 kings of which I have cut off their big toes and their thumbs who were beggars under my table and now the Lord has repaid me."

This is what Jesus is wanting us to understand: the way you treat others – the way they treat you.

A) If you are Harsh and Judgmental – they will be that way to you.

B) If you write people off – when you fall – they will have the tendency to do the same to you.

C) Jesus says don't be guilty of that! – Why?

#1 You are not God

#2 Because Judgment is like a boomerang V.2

D) #3 You are not perfect yourself. V.3-5

1) If someone wanted to put the magnifying glass on your life – find dirt – flaws- Inconsistencies

E) There are those in the body of Christ – Sin sniffers always looking for the dirt on others

1) **Pride – that ignores their own.**

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.

Jesus is comical here

A) Jesus grew up in a Carpenter Shop – He knew of specks and planks

B) Speck – Dust – Your brother has Speck –

C) You are trying to help him – You have this 2X4 sticking out of your head

1) You are slaughtering people with your PLANK - there is **CARNEAGE everywhere you turn**

This would be a good Christian Cartoon: Veggie tales – Bible man – this could be PLANK MAN!

A) Every episode – is just mass **CARNEAGE!**

B) Problem with some people – they want to help others – Plank in own eye.

1) Plank of Pride – Speak truth – but not in love – come across not in humility but in Pride – **Know it all.**

C) Self Righteous – Pharisaical

D) Not patient – but overbearing – They have their own agenda

1) **Planks of Bitterness and unforgiveness – NO TRUSTING – suspicious of everyone!**

Speck hunters or we might call them SIN SNIFFERS – are dangerous!

A) Jesus' view of the **SPECK HUNTER – PLANK MAN – OR PLANK WOMAN? - V.5 YOU HYPOCRITE!**

B) Jesus says: Remove the plank – before you go trying to help your brother out with his speck

C) Here is the Danger – we get saved – we get delivered – we begin to grow – there is transformation that takes place in our lives

1) **WE FORGET – how we used to be!**

D)We forget the things we used to STRUGGLE WITH!

1)We end up having so little grace – with those who are struggling! - **So sad**

E)Jesus is calling for MORE COMPASSION – Except for the grace of God there go I.

But then he gives this warning: -

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.

To be effective in ministry, we must make judgments—

A)not for condemnation, but for identification.

B)So Christ tempers these admonitions so that we understand the difference between “judgment” and “discernment.”

C)We are not to be hypocritical judges,
1)yet we must be able to discern the swine, lest we cast our pearls before them.

D)There are some people who need to be judged with the truth – and to simply show grace – pearls...swine

1)Giving what is holy to the dogs

Now, when you read about dog here, don't think of a pet dog.

A)In those days, most people didn't have pet dogs. Dogs were scavengers.

B)They ran around the city. They carry disease. Dogs and pigs were considered unholy.

C)You show grace to someone like that – take advantage and tear you apart – scavenger dogs
1)Pearls before swine - Pig with pearls – odd pic

Big question: How do you know which is which?

A)How do I know if this is a situation where I need to judge or one where I need to show grace?

B)Pray! – Immediate context of verses looked at Sunday

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.”

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!

Pray – Present continual sense – Keep praying, asking....

A)We need to learn to pray before we ACT! – Confront - (**CAN I BE BOLD**)

B)Not praying – NO BUSINESS – TALKING !

C)There was a time when I was a younger Christian that I was so quick to confront – **PRIDE I would see someone doing something wrong – Tell them!**

D)Problem was – They rarely received it - Probably pride on my part

1)I genuinely cared for them / BUT – met by so much Opposition

I Started learning – to just Pray! – Pray for them

A)And I would wait – Keep praying - I would only go to them if I really sensed the Lord telling me to.

B)Usually when I did – they received what I had to say – Changed

C)Jesus is underscoring here what James would write later – Your father – wants to answer and bless

James 1:5-6 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Our Father is a good good father – who loves for us to come to him in faith

A)With an expectancy and urgency – and at times a persistence.

B)Persistence because – Develops our relationship

1)Develops my heart – Aligns my heart with his
2)Develops my faith

C)The more time I spend with him the more I am reminded he is a good good father

1) Trust and run too.

Now Jesus brings this all back around in V12 – ties this all together -

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

A) Sums it up in this way. Treat others the way that you would like them to treat you.

B) The Golden Rule : The Golden Rule is what sets Christianity apart, from every other philosophy and every other religious system.

C) There is no system of belief or religion that has anything like this in it.

1) Wait a minute – I studied world religions in College and many have a similar statement

Example in the Talmud: The saying of one Rabbi Hillel who said, "Whatever is not helpful, don't do that to other people."

Or you might want to quote the philosopher Confucius who said, "Don't do to others what you don't want them to do to you."

Or still some of you say, "Well, I know Greek philosophy and among the Stoic philosophers, they said something similar." They said, "What ever you want people not to do to you, don't do that to anyone else."

But if you look carefully there is a difference between what they said and what Jesus said:

A) Everyone of those statements is in the negative. All of those are about self-preservation. "You don't want to get hurt, don't be mean to anybody."

B) That's a far cry from, "Do to others what you want them to do to you." That's the positive.

C) So it's one thing to live in the negatives, it's another thing to take the negative and turn it into a positive.

D) Simple application, you've been a recipient of God's goodness, now bless other people. Bless other people. Think, "What would bless that person?"

E) So Jesus is mainly dealing with relationships here – **V.13 He is going to switch gears now!**

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.

There lots of negative talk today about being Narrow-minded.

A) We live in this culture where the mantra is be sensitive – be open

B) Everyone has rights – be broad-MINDED– be TOLERANT!

C) It is almost as if you have convictions about something – you actually believe in something

1) and **you are not willing to negotiate** – YOU are dubbed as being – NARROW-MINDED

But is being Narrow really always Bad?

Surgery- You want the surgeon to be Narrow – You need your left KNEE replacement – you don't want him to do surgery on the right Knee – correct?

Dentist: You need a Root Canal – on a back Right molar – Do you want him to be broad? - - pick the wrong tooth!

Pilot – Booked a Trip to Maui – If that Pilot is off 2 degrees – you will miss Maui by miles

You paid for that trip – You want the Pilot to be Narrow!

D) So I ask you the question: Is Narrow a Bad thing?

The warning in the text is not against being NARROW – it is against being BROAD-MINDED

- Two Gates
- Two Paths
- Two Destinations
- Two Groups

A) We all have to make a Choice about which Path to be on – Which group we are going to be in!

B) Jesus says the path that leads to life is a narrow one

1) Is that because God is being mean and rigid – NO ! – It is because He loves us –

C) And he doesn't want there to be any confusion about – how to know HIM – how to go to HEAVEN

D) **SO HE MADE IT REALLY CLEAR – ONE WAY!!!**- Jesus

“I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the father except through me.” – John 14:6

E) **Not many ways – not many paths – Just One – Absolute statement – Know God – Go to heaven – Eternal life**

1) **I AM THE DOOR!** - Another analogy he used in John 10

So Jesus says: watch out for the broad path!

A) He is warning that a time is coming when the lines are going to get blurred. –NO MORE CLARITY

B) The Wide gate and the Broad Path ARE welcoming:

1) Open to any and all who **don't want to go** through the Narrow gate.

C) That is the reason why Jesus follows this statement up by talking about False teachers

1) **ONE WAY:** But there are many teachers

D) We need to be able to discern who and what we are listening to.

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

A) Now, false prophets are disguised, to look like sheep!

B) They don't knock on your door and go, "Hi. I'm your neighborhood false prophet.

1) Do you see my name tag, false prophet? (Laughter) I've come to deceive you."

V.15 Jesus says Watch out for Ravenous wolves!

A) Come in Sheep's clothing –

B) How can you detect a wolf? **Character/ Creed**

1) **Character:** Wolves eat sheep!

C) **Pasture:** See the sheep – All the Sheep eating grass

1) A couple – eating sheep - **WOLVES**

D) **Paul gave the same warning to the Elders at the Church in Ephesus – Acts 20 – Watch out for wolves!**

1) **Character:** – Draw people to themselves – Self promoters – Not Jesus promoters

Peter issued a similar warning in 2 Peter 2:3 – Character - Wolves – make merchandise of God's people!

A) Extortioners – they just want your money!

B) CREED

➤ Wolves deny the Deity of Christ

➤ Wolves add to the Gospel/ Jesus plus something

C) **Jesus gives a pointed illustration:**

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.

Fruit inspectors –

A) Who is being promoted? – what is the fruit?

B) Who is being glorified!

C) What Jesus says next should be a wake up call to anyone in ministry to check their motives – heavy

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

Never Knew you?

A) Doesn't mean he didn't know who they were – God knows everything –

B) Know is – Know in a relationship – no relationship there.

C) They will say: Lord Lord we diddemons wonders – the name of Jesus is powerful

D) God's word is powerful –

1) Big churches – find out – practice lawlessness
Double life – Hypocrites

E) The Power of the name – the word

Sad there are going to be some to whom Jesus says depart from me – I never knew you! –

A) Two crucial reminders for all of us here tonight

B) RELATIONSHIP IS KEY – Not Religion

1) Not works – Relationship with Jesus

C) #2 How you respond to God's word is Crucial

D) Jesus finishes this sermon with an illustration about that.

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.”

Now, if you look at two houses side by side, you couldn't tell the difference.

A) They both look great. Beach front property! They look the same.

B) To find the difference you have to look underneath the house. – Foundation – One is Sand – One is Rock

C) Sand = The one who hears the word but doesn't put it into practice

1) When the storm comes – Waves crash – the wind blows – House is destroyed

D) Rock = Hears the word and does it – puts it into practice – Storm comes – STANDS

1) Founded on the word

Look around the room – We all look the same!

A) All at Bible study tonight – we have our Bibles – Been singing songs

B) Some of you your life is built on sand – You hear – you have knowledge – but NEVER APPLIED

1) STORM HITS you are a mess

C) Others of you – Rock – you listen – you apply

1) Learned how to pray it in – (T&P) Tried and Proven

D) You have learned the importance of that

1) Storm comes – YOU STAND – YOU GROW

E) WHICH ARE YOU? Which do you want to be?

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.

So, in closing our eyes, we're just shutting everyone around us out, we're not talking to anyone.

A) We're not thinking about tomorrow morning or what happened today.

B) We're just thinking about our relationship with God. Are we under His authority?

1) Have we entered into the narrow gate?

C) The one that leads to eternal life?

1) Or are we still cruising on the broad way, the wide way, the way that is less restrictive, the way that we think is good for our lives.

D) SAND or ROCK

Maybe tonight you're just tired of chasing so many pots of gold at the end of rainbows that haven't produced.

A) You've looked for satisfaction in relationships and status and education and jobs.

B) The well is empty. You're thirsty tonight. God isn't telling to you get religious. He's saying get real. Get right with Me.

C) He loves you!

D) 1st time commitment

1) Recommitment