

MATTHEW: JESUS IS KING

HE SAID TO THEM, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" SIMON PETER REPLIED, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD." MATTHEW 16:15-16

True Judgement & Obedience

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7

THE POINT

Jesus calls His followers to judge wisely, treat others as you would want to be treated and obey His teachings.

Jesus moves from dealing with ourselves personally and internally to our attitudes towards other people.

(Note: that much of the information below is from the Enduring Word Commentary)

Matthew 7:1 **Judge not, that you be not judged:** With this command Jesus warned against passing judgment upon others, because when we do so, we will be **judged** in a similar manner. ***Among those who seem to know nothing of the Bible, this is the verse that seems to be most popular. Yet most people who quote this verse don't understand what Jesus said. They seem to think (or hope) that Jesus commanded a universal acceptance of any lifestyle or teaching.*** However, just a little later in this same sermon ([Matthew 7:15-16](#)), Jesus commanded us to know ourselves and others by the fruit of their life, and *some* sort of assessment is necessary for that. The Christian is called to show unconditional love, but the Christian is not called to unconditional *approval*. We really *can* love people who do things that should not be approved of. So while this does not prohibit examining the lives of others, it certainly prohibits doing it in the spirit it is often done. An example of unjust judgment was the disciples' condemnation of the woman who came to anoint the feet of Jesus with oil ([Matthew 26:6-13](#)). They thought she was wasting something; Jesus said she had done a good work that would always be remembered. They had a rash, harsh, unjust judgment.

- 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.

Matthew 7:2 **For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged:** Jesus did not *prohibit* the judgment of others. He only requires that our judgment be completely fair, and that we only judge others by a standard we would also like to be judged by. When our judgment in regard to others is wrong, it is often not because we judge according to a standard, but because we are hypocritical in the application of that standard – we ignore the standard in our own life. It is common to judge others by one standard and ourselves by another standard – being far more generous to ourselves than others.

With the measure you use, it will be measured back to you: This is the principle upon which Jesus built the command, “**Judge not, that you be not judged.**” God will measure unto us according to the same measure we use for others. This is a powerful motivation for us to be generous with love, forgiveness, and goodness to others. If we want more of those things from God, we should give more of them to others. According to the teaching of some rabbis in Jesus’ time, God had two measures that He used to judge people. One was a **measure** of *justice* and the other was a **measure** of *mercy*. Whichever **measure** you want God to use with you, you should use that same **measure** with others.

Matthew 7:3-5 reminds us that we need to deal with our own sin first and then carefully deal with the sins of others. Non-Christians are not going to live according to Christian standards and can’t without the Holy Spirit. We need to approach them with the gospel first! They don’t need to clean up their lives first. The question to ask is “What is our attitude, superiority or humility?” Are we taking pleasure in their failings or coming alongside to help? Galatians 6:1.

Matthew 7:7-11 We go to God for what we need. God gives good things to His children. If God doesn’t give us what we ask then we can trust that it is not good for us!

Jesus sums up the teaching in Matthew 7:12. It is a key summary of everything, but again, God goes beyond normal meaning by making it a positive. The normal saying was: “You should not do to your neighbor what you would not want him to do unto you”. But Jesus flips this to be more positive and goes beyond the negative, which is more a minimum. He doesn’t want us to do just the minimum in our obedience but to be extravagant in our obedience. Remember the discussion on verse 2 and the measure it that will be used.

Jesus’s teaching are complex but simple enough to condense to one statement!!!!

Matthew 7:13-14. Guarding against self-deception. The Pharisees were deceived about what constituted true righteousness and faith. They thought it was their outward actions but Jesus is pointing people to their inward heart. Jeremiah 31:31-34 and

Ezekiel 36:24-28. This new covenant is about inward change. God's people have always been a minority. God's way is narrow and not the way the majority follows. We shouldn't be surprised when we find ourselves alone and separate from the crowd. God's ways are difficult. They involve persecution and cost. We are told to take up our cross.

C.S. Lewis: "If you live for the next world, you get this one in the deal; but if you only live for this world, you lose them both."

Matthew 7:15-20 We need to know the truth and be aware that false prophets exist and will lead us astray. There are lots of false prophets leading us on the wide path to destruction. Just because someone claims to be a christian doesn't mean they are or that their teaching is Biblical. We should examine the teaching against God's word. If it contradicts in any way the teacher is wrong, not God's word. We know people by their fruits. This also indicates that we are to judge and show discernment. The Bible never calls us to blindly accept what people say or do, even if they claim to be following Jesus. We have to walk in humility and continually seek God's truth so that we are not deceived. Just because a lot of people agree doesn't make it right. We should pay attention to the manner of living a teacher shows. Do they show righteousness, humility and faithfulness in the way they live? We should pay attention to the content of their teaching. Is it true fruit from God's Word, or is it man-centered, appealing to ears that want to be tickled? We should pay attention to the effect of their teaching. Are people growing in Jesus or merely being entertained, and eventually falling away?

Matthew 7:21-23. True salvation is knowing Jesus. We can say the right things and we can even do right things, but without being known by Jesus, being in relationship with Him as our Savior we are not saved.

Matthew 7:24-27 - Jesus ends His sermon with a call to hear and DO what He said. Otherwise, our foundation is worthless. Both men built houses, but only one house withstood the storms. When we hear what Jesus says and we do it, we grow stronger in our faith and we are prepared for the storms that come. Otherwise, we aren't. Remember Daniel. In Daniel 6:10 - Daniel was prepared to be faithful in the face of persecution because he continued to pray, **just as he always did.**

We aren't magically able to survive the storms because Jesus acts like some type of genie or super hero. Through obedience we learn that He is trustworthy and that He gives good gifts and that pain and suffering aren't the worse thing that can happen. We are able to survive the storm because we are prepared to stand. Our faith is real.

Additional resources:

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/matthew-7/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do Christians need to judge themselves? What are the ways we judge ourselves easier than others? Harder than others?
2. The view of many people today is that none of us has any right to judge other people. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. What does the Golden Rule look like in real life? What does the Golden Rule have to do with judging others?
4. Why do you think only a few find the way to heaven? What does that mean for us as believers?
5. What kind of fruit does a true Christian produce?
6. How can we identify false teachers? Why is it important to discern false teachings?
7. What does it mean to build our house on the rock? Why is it so important to both hear and do God's words?