

The Sermon on the Mount = Living the Kingdom of God

Matthew 5 Jesus introduces the nature of Kingdom life for his disciples = He fulfills OT law

Matthew 6 Jesus teaches the genuine contrast His Kingdom brings personally:
Give like this, not like that
Pray like this, not like that
Fast like this, not like that
Choose Your Lord: God or Wealth
Choose Your Provider: God or Worry

Matthew 7 Jesus teaches the genuine contrast His Kingdom brings relationally:
Condemning others is wrong
Discerning others is wise
God's guidance and grace for dealing with others
Warnings: a decision for Jesus is all the difference

7 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. 6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:1-12

Three Markers of Being a Genuine and Gracious Disciple

In Christ, we can live free from the negative bondage of judgmental attitudes.

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James 4:12 "God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?"

The hypocrite's judgmental attitude reveals his self-righteous soul, and that is the issue in all of us.

In Christ, we can be wisely on guard against gullibility toward harmful people.

“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

The opposite extreme of being judgmental of others is being gullible about people and evil.

Golden Rule = *“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...” v12*

Applied to text: some people need love in the form of truth, some need truth in form of love.

In Christ, we can keep on praying to God, He is good and wise and generous.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Vs 7-8

3 imperatives in present tense = Be persistent in prayer: keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking