

What matters is treating others the way you want to be treated



What matters life – Sermon on the Mount - Session 8ⁱ ¹ CITY BIBLE FORUM

Matthew 7:1-12 ¹“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For 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? ⁴How 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? ⁵You 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. ⁸For 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? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If 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!

¹²So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Q1. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt that other people were judging you?

Q2. Can you think of situations when you have judged other people?

As we have learnt in previous weeks, Jesus knows our hearts. And he knows how we relate to each other and how we relate to God. Before we explore what he has to say about our attitude towards others, let us do some quick revision.

Previous weeks

In the last few weeks, we talked about matters of the heart. The Pharisees, who were part of the religious leadership in Jesus’ day, were extremely zealous in their devotion to God and were focused on keeping the 613 laws.

But Jesus reminds that that God is concerned not just about our outward actions, but that he is more concerned about whether we truly follow him from our heart.

¹ Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV, Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Jesus then gives examples of how God looks at the heart. For example, it's not about whether you murder someone, but about whether you are angry with someone. And it's not just about whether you love your neighbour – it's about whether you love your enemy.

Instead of doing things so that other people will see and give approval, Jesus teaches us to do things in secret, which only God can see. This is because it shows that we truly mean what we do, and that we really care about following the God who looks into our hearts and our true intentions.

We then were faced with some choices. Storing up treasures in heaven or treasures on earth. Serving God or money. And if we serve God, then we need not be anxious about money. God cares for us and will look after us – he even cares for the birds and flowers and we are far more valuable to him.

This week, we will take a look at relating to other people and to God.

Relating to other people who follow Jesus

to judge:

- (i) *to condemn or to be "ensorious" ("fault finding, severely critical"), or*
- (ii) *to be discerning, to be able to see the truth*

hypocrite: a person who engages in behaviour that he or she condemns others for
(Oxford Concise Dictionary)

Matthew 7:1-5 ¹"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For 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? ⁴How 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? ⁵You 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.

Q3. Why does Jesus say we should not judge?

Q4. Why is it easy to pass judgment on other people?

Q5. Does Jesus mean we can never comment on issues, or point out that something or someone is wrong?

Relating to those who hate God

Matthew 7:6 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.

Q6. Jesus is using 2 images to essentially say the same thing – so what is sacred is also a pearl. What do you think he means by this? (hint: what do you think Jesus thinks is most precious?)

Q7. Who are the pigs and dogs?

Q8. What do you think Jesus is saying?

Relating to God himself

Matthew 7:7-11 ⁷“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For 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? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If 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!

Q9. How do we relate to God?

Q10. Why can you be sure that you will be heard?

Q11. Does this mean God will give us anything we ask for?

Relating to everyone

Matthew 7:12 ¹²So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Q12. How should we treat others?

Q13. How is this different from “what is hateful to you, do not do unto others”?

Q14. What difference would it make if we all did this?

Q15. Why is it so hard to do this?

Q16. What can we do about our struggles?

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