

110. Sermon on the Mount part 5, Our Judging vs. God's Mercy (Matthew 7:1-12)

Prayer: Almighty Father, You are kind and giving, and You show much mercy. We are sometimes picky and judging. Please help us look for Your mercy. Help us see how we judge people, and we should first confess our sins to You. Then with Your help, we can build good relationships with all people. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Matthew 7:1-2. Jesus said, "Don't judge. If you do judge, someone else will judge you. The way you judge, someone else will judge you the same. Someone else will use your own laws and judge you."

- Jesus said if we judge, then someone else will...?
- Who is the "Someone Else" who will judge us?
- What does it mean, "Someone else will use your own laws and judge you."? Can you think of an example how our own personal rules and ideas judge us?

Matthew 7:3-5. Jesus said, "Your brother has a little speck in his eye. Why do you look at that, but you don't notice the log in your own eye? How can you tell your brother, 'Let me take that speck out of your eye?' You still have a log in your own eye! You are a hypocrite. First, take out the log from your eye. Then you can see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

- Specks and logs? What is Jesus talking about?
- When we look at other people, what do we notice? Good things or bad things? When we look at ourselves, what do we see? Good things or bad things?
- Before we can really help someone else stop some sin, we should first do what?

Matthew 7:6. Jesus said, "Don't take holy things and give them to dogs. Don't give your pearls to pigs. If you give them your pearls, they will stomp on them, then run at you and attack you."

- Jesus is comparing some people to dogs and pigs. Who are those people?
- Jesus said we should not give them our holy things. Why not?
- Jesus said before, “Don’t judge.” Many people today say we should never judge. Is that what Jesus means? Should we sometimes judge? If so, when?

Matthew 7:7-8. Jesus said, “Ask, and God will give to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and God will open the door for you. Why? Because everyone who asks, receives. The person who searches, finds. A person knocks, and God opens the door.”

- Jesus says here very simply that when we ask, search, and knock, God will answer. What is one reason we be certain He will answer?

Matthew 7:9-11. Jesus said, “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, you will give him a rock? Of if your son asks for a fish, will you give him a snake? No! You are evil, but you know how to give your children good gifts. Much more, your Father in heaven will give good things to people who ask Him!”

- Jesus said we are full of evil, but still we know how to give good gifts. If we are evil, how often will we give good gifts? Always, sometimes, or never?
- Our Father in heaven is perfect and gives good gifts. If He is perfect and full of mercy, how often will He give us the good things we need? Always, sometimes, or never?

Matthew 7:12. Jesus said, “Therefore, how you want people to treat you, you should treat them the same. That is what the Law and the Prophets say.”

- When Jesus said this, He summarized everything He said in Matthew from chapter 5 until now. Jesus said this another way when He said, “Love your _____ as you love _____.”