

Matthew

Chapter 7



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read this week's chapter, Matthew 7. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 5-7, if you haven't already done so.

Day 1 - Finding the Narrow Gate

Matthew 7:1-14

1) What was Jesus' warning? What will happen if we don't heed it? (v.1-2)

See also:

a) Romans 14:10-13 _____

b) James 4:11-12 _____

2) What illustration did He use to make His point? Who judged others for things they themselves did? (v.3-5)

- 3) Pigs ate scraps and dogs were scavengers - both consumed detestable things. Knowing this, what point do you think Jesus was making in verse 6?

See also:

a) Proverbs 26:11 _____

b) 2 Peter 2:1-3 _____

c) Proverbs 23:9 _____

- 4) What did Jesus say should be our posture in prayer? (v.7-8) What attitude will God reward?

See also:

a) James 1:5-8 _____

b) James 4:2-3 _____

c) James 5:16 _____

d) 1 John 5:14-15 _____

- 5) Who is the source of our good gifts? (v.11)

See also James 1:17. _____

6) What summed up the Law and the Prophets? (v.12)

See also:

a) Romans 13:8-10 _____

b) Galatians 5:14 _____

7) Describe the two gates Jesus mentioned here? (v.13-14)

8) What insight do you get on this concept from these other Scriptures:

a) Luke 13:23-25 _____

b) John 10:7-10 _____

Day 2 - The Fruit

Matthew 7:15-29

1) How were false prophets described? (v.15)

2) How will you recognize them? (v.16, 20)

3) What logic did Jesus use here? (v.16-18)

4) What happened to a non-fruit-bearing tree? (v.19)

5) What additional insight can you draw from these Scriptures?

a) Matthew 24:24-25 _____

b) 2 Peter 2:1-3 _____

c) 1 John 4:1 _____

6) Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? (v.21)

See also:

a) John 3:5 _____

b) Matthew 3:2 _____

c) Romans 2:13 _____

d) Mark 10:14-15 _____

7) Who won't enter the kingdom of heaven? (v.22-23)

See also:

a) Galatians 5:19-21 _____

b) Revelation 22:15 _____

8) What sobering response will Jesus have for those trying to "talk their way" into the kingdom of heaven? (v.23)

9) How will He respond to those He knows?

See also:

a) 1 John 3:1 _____

b) John 10:27-29 _____

c) Matthew 11:28 _____

10) Compare and contrast the wise and foolish builders. (v.24-27)

11) What do you think the rain represents in this parable? (v.25, 27)

12) What was the response of the crowd to Jesus' teaching? Why? (v.28-29)

13) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots...

As Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount, He challenged His first century listeners to move beyond the legal requirements of the law and apply its intention. The challenge for them is the same for us: As it pertains to God's Word, will we be hearers only or will we both hear and then do as our heavenly Father commands?

1) Read 2 Samuel 12:1-7. What parallels do you see in this exchange between David and the prophet Nathan when the prophet confronted David, the King, about his sin? What connection do you see to Jesus' teaching in verses Matthew 7:1-6?

2) Then as now, humans are masters of self-deception, but the Holy Spirit will quicken our conscience as we invite Him into our lives. What can we learn from David's words in Psalm 139:23-24? What attitude does God want to see in our hearts?

- 3) David's son, Solomon became king after his death. Read 1 Kings 3:5-14. What connections can you make to Jesus' teaching on prayer in both Matthew 6 & 7?

- 4) What do you learn about prayer from these Old Testament saints?

a) Genesis 18:22-33 _____

b) Exodus 32:11-14 _____

c) 1 Samuel 1:9-20 _____

- 5) In verses 13-14, Jesus described two paths that led to very different destinations. This theme appeared throughout the Old Testament. Read the passages below. What common message do they share?

a) Deuteronomy 30:15-20 _____

b) Joshua 24:15 _____

- 6) How did Isaiah 1:10-17 illustrate true obedience as described in verses 21-23?

- 7) One of the most prominent connections between Matthew 7 and the Old Testament was the image of the wise and foolish builders. (v.24-27) What do you learn about this theme from these Scriptures?

a) Proverbs 10:25 _____

b) Proverbs 12:7 _____

c) Psalm 18:2 _____

- 8) Read Psalm 1 and outline the parallels in Matthew 7 to further understand Jesus' teaching.

Psalm 1

Matthew 7

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------|
| a) Two ways | = | _____ |
| b) Two groups | = | _____ |
| c) Fruitful tree | = | _____ |
| d) Prospering righteous | = | _____ |
| e) Perishing wicked | = | _____ |
| f) Delight in God's Word | = | _____ |

Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

One of the most beautiful things about the Sermon on the Mount was that Jesus never asked His followers to do what He Himself was unwilling to do.

- 1) How did Jesus exemplify humility in these examples even as He confronted sin?

a) John 8:1-11 _____

b) John 4 _____

- 2) Jesus embodied the "Golden Rule." (v.12) There were many examples about the extent of His love throughout the Gospels. What do you learn from these few examples?

a) Matthew 9:36 _____

b) Luke 5:12-13 _____

c) Mark 10:13-16 _____

3) **Jesus taught that those who do the Father's will, will enter the kingdom of heaven. (v.21) How did Jesus show you the way to obey that principle?

a) John 4:34 _____

b) John 6:38 _____

c) Luke 22:42 _____

4) Jesus told parables or short stories to help His listeners understand His teaching. Read the parable one scholar called "The Tale of Two Sons" in Matthew 21:28-32. What point do you think Jesus was making?

5) **As you have studied Matthew 7, which aspect of Jesus' example challenges or encourages you most right now?

6) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 7 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God’s living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

- 1) ****What part of God’s redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?**

- 2) ****What assumptions from this passage quietly challenge you in your life (ideas about identity, comfort, control, security, significance, etc.)?**

- 3) **Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?**

- 4) ****What part of God’s kingdom seemed upside-down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?**

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) **What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood, what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?
