

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 10 ~ Exploring Chapter 7

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 7
- Thoughtfully read Matthew 7 two or three times considering the flow of the chapter. Then work on the following issues and questions. Keep your Matthew notebook close by for jotting down important thoughts.
- Matthew 7:1 commands us not to judge. From the context in verses 1 to 6, develop reasons why we should not judge. Record this list in your notebook.
 - Now add to this list other reasons from Scripture or other sources why we should not judge.
 - What personality traits are evident in persons who feel free to set themselves up as judges of others?
 - Is there a “contradiction” between verses 1 and 6? If so, what do you find problematic?
- How do you relate to the temptation to be critical of others? What does it tell you about other people when they seem to always have critical or judgmental remarks about others or when their critical remarks greatly outweigh their positive remarks?
- Re-read Matthew 7:7-11. Do these verses imply that anything Christians ask God for will be given them if they ask persistently enough?
 - Explain how you would relate such texts as 2 Corinthians 12:8, 9 and Matthew 26:39-49 to verse 7.
 - What implications does verse 7 have in the context of the entire Sermon on the Mount?
- Re-read Matthew 7:7-20, then go back and re-read chapter 5:17-20. What is the function of verse 12 in the sermon? Is there any connection between verses 5:17-20? If so, explain what it is.
 - Do you really believe the golden rule? In what specific ways can you ask God today to help you with the rule in your daily life?
- Re-read Matthew 7:13-27, these verses present three swiftly moving word pictures that come to similar conclusions. Study these three pictures carefully, and list their common points.
 - Now in a paragraph or two, write the overall impression that these verses leave with you.
 - How is this passage linked to the overall message of the Sermon on the Mount?
 - What lessons can you learn for your life from the two gates, the two trees, and the two builders?
- We have come to the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount. Take time to re-read the entire sermon (Matthew 5:1-7:29) one more time before we move on. As you read make a list of the ways in which Jesus taught with “authority” (7:29). Is Jesus the authority in your life? In what ways?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).