

Jesus: No Spin Matthew Chapter Seven: Famous Sayings

personal / group study for use with the message of November 1st and 2nd, 2008

The summation of the Sermon on the Mount can be found in the "Golden Rule" Matthew 7:12. The Message Bible reads, **"Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them"**.

In the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew we read about the genealogy of Christ, the "Who" of God's plan to bring people back into right relationship with Himself. In this chapter we again see the "Who". Jesus. He challenges the listeners to accept His invitation to enter the kingdom of heaven. He is the firm foundation that your life should be built on.

Introduction.

Here are ten famous sayings from the Sermon on the Mount:

- Do not judge, lest you be judged
- First take the log out of your own eye
- Don't cast your pearls before swine
- Ask and it will be given to you
- Seek and you shall find
- Knock and the door shall be open to you
- The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- Enter by the narrow gate.
- Wolves in sheep's clothing
- Know them by their fruit

What do you think each of these sayings mean? Have you heard them before?

Read.

Matthew 7: 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 then 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; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you, if his 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.

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. 14But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.*

Questions.

Bob challenged us to live out our lives for our Father's eyes. As you think about Jesus' teaching focus on what He is asking you to be, not just what you should do.

ThinkAboutIt...

1. How do you "judge not" but still discern rightly?
2. What main point in this chapter of Matthew is most important to you? Why?

ReflectOnIt...

3. Read verses 3-5, what word does Jesus use for a person who performs? To whom is He referring?
4. Is it right or wrong to address a shortcoming in someone else's life? Can you back up your answer with scripture? Explain.
5. What does it mean to throw pearls before swine?
6. What do you learn about prayer in Matthew 7:9-11? What do you learn about God the Father in these verses?
7. Jesus teaches that there will be those who think that they belong in the kingdom of heaven, but Jesus said they didn't produce good fruit. What is the good fruit? Why does He call them "wolves in sheep's clothing"?
8. When you put Jesus' words into practice in your life you will be like a wise man who builds his house on a rock. Who is that rock? See Ephesians 2:20 and 1 Peter 2:6-7.

RespondToIt...

9. How would you live out the golden rule?
10. Have you applied His teachings to your life?

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