

Sermon on the Mount – Mathew 7:1-12

Don't Judge; Ask and It Shall Be Given; Golden Rule

v.1-5 – Judge not, that ye be not judged. For you will be judged with the same judgement. You will be treated the way you treat others (same measure ye mete). . v. 4- how can we notice and criticize the faults of our brothers and ignore our own faults, which many times are the same (though hidden), or even more serious. That person tends to criticize and condemn. v.5- first deal with your own faults and issues before attempting to deal with another's. We probably will find that we have no time to deal with others' faults because our hands are full just trying to get ourselves right. Moreover, when we consider that we ourselves have things that we must improve on, clean up, get out of our lives, we can be more patient and merciful with others who also are trying, just as we ourselves are. (Also, Luke 6:36-38,41,42)

Judging also addressed in James 4:11,12 which tells us not to criticize one another and to remember that there is one lawgiver. When we judge others we are disobeying the royal law of love.

Romans 2:1-6 admonishes those who judge others for things they themselves should be judged for will not escape judgment. For God will render to everyman according to his deeds (v6) We should remember the mercy and forbearance of the Lord, which leads us all to repent.

Romans 14:1-12 speaks to judging others for things that may not be sin but that we think are the appropriate things to do if you belong to the Lord. Judgment about eating meat offered to idols, or the observance or ignoring of certain days, or, in today's context, judging for wearing certain things, going to the movies, etc.... These things God will judge, we should not judge another man's servant; We don't judge God's servants. We all must stand before him.

We certainly should operate in discernment, being able to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong, what is of God and what is not. Considering this and I Corinthians 5, we who are in authority should be prepared to deal with confirmed sin of a particular seriousness, i.e., fornication, adultery, etc., everyone is not supposed to deal with these things. We are also in covenant relationship with one another and should be able to admonish our brother with whom we have relationship in the way of the Lord. We must ask God for discernment, wisdom, and power.

V6 – We are told not give pearls to the dogs or swines for they shall trample them under feet, then attack us. We must ask for discernment when giving the gospel of the kingdom; if those we speak with malign the word, and malign us, we should know when to no longer continue to persuade. They reject God, they reject the word, they reject you. No longer cast your pearls. This requires discernment which comes from the Holy Ghost. We must ask.

v.7,8-Ask and it shall be given seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you. This verse should be looked at first in light of what went before and then in the broad light of asking God in prayer for anything. First if we need discernment, wisdom, power to accomplish

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what God has ordained for us to do, or to live victorious lives, we must ask, and he will give it to us. We need discernment to know when to give and when to withhold, or when to stop giving. When to keep talking and when to keep silent. He will give us discernment; He will give us wisdom. James 1:5 – If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak (Eccl. 3:7). We need Holy Spirit wisdom, which includes discernment, to live our Christian lives in this contrary world, but God will give it to us if we ask.

Ask, Seek, Knock. But the idea that the bible wants us to get is that we receive as we keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking. We keep on until our prayer is answered. Luke 11 puts forth this idea more clearly. Jesus, teaching the disciples how they should pray, then gives then a parable; A friend knocks on another friend's door asking for three loaves of bread to show hospitality to another friend who has come by his house—he has nothing to serve him. The friend at whose house he knocks says, trouble me not; the door is locked and my children are asleep, and I can't get up to help you. But although he didn't want to get up, because the friend at the door would not leave (because of his importunity), the friend inside will get up and give him what he needs. Then Jesus says in Luke 11:9, Ask, and it shall be given, which really means ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking until you get what you need from the Lord. Stay in God's face.

James 1:6-8 says ask nothing wavering, ask with focus, ask believing. If you waver, don't think you shall receive anything from the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Your mind must be made up. Do you or don't you want to live for the Lord. Do you or don't you want to please the Lord in the way you live and the decisions you make. If your mind is made up, God will help you and give you what you need to be successful in your walk in him.

v.9-11 – gives us three comparisons of man's giving and God's. If a son asks bread, will father give him something that looks like bread but is not: a stone. If he asks for fish, will he give him something that has scales like a fish, but is considered unclean: a snake. If we being evil know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will our heavenly father give good things to them (his children) who ask him. Luke 11:13 says how much more will our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them who ask.

Yet there are criteria for asking and receiving from God

John 15:7 – If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1 John 5:14,15 – And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions, that we desired of him.