

SERMON ON THE MOUNT – PART 3

Life Group; Week of Sunday, October 30, 2022; Matthew 7:1-27; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – Praise God that He offers the perfect righteousness of Christ to sinners who diligently seek Him by faith. However, that means there are only two options. Either you believe in Jesus, bear fruit, walk a path that leads to eternal life and the Kingdom of God; or you follow the way of the many, bear worldly fruit, and walk a path that leads to death!

I. Diligence Rewarded – Read Matthew 7:1-12

- A. The phrase “the Law and the Prophets” is seen both in Matthew 5:17 and Matthew 7:12. These verses serve as bookends for the entire section? As you look back, how would you summarize all that the Lord Jesus has taught up to this point in the Sermon on the Mount?
- B. In the context of Matthew 7:1-5, what does it mean to not judge? How does the statement “you hypocrite” and the instruction of v.5 help with that interpretation? In what areas of life do you tend to be most judgmental of others; rather than being humble and helpful to others?
- C. In Matthew 7:6, what do you think it means “to not give to dogs what is holy and to not throw pearls before pigs?” Why do you think Jesus gives this command in this context? Where do you think you struggle the most in lacking discernment with regard to sharing the gospel?
- D. What observations do you make regarding Jesus’ command to ask, seek, and knock? How is his argument regarding earthly fathers helpful in understanding the meaning of these verses?
- E. Jesus promises that if you ask, God will provide. What are some requests that you desire, but are not currently praying for? What could you start asking God for that would change your life? How is verse 12 helpful in thinking about godly things to ask God for in your life?

II. Only Two Options – Read Matthew 7:13-27

- A. As you think about the two paths, the two trees, the two claims, and the two houses, how are these verses connected together? What is the logical flow from one section to the next?
- B. What observations do you make about the two paths (Matt. 7:13-14)? What are distinguishing marks of each? Do you think the choice of paths is a one-time choice or an ongoing choice?
- C. According to Jesus and Galatians 5:19-24, good and bad fruit is evident in a person’s life. How do you think we protect ourselves against self-delusion regarding the fruit in our lives?
- D. Read Matthew 7:21-23. How would you interpret these verses? If a person confesses, “Lord, Lord”, how is it even possible for God to declare to them, “I never knew you.”
- E. How might you prepare your heart for the winds and waves of life? How do we practically build our houses on the rock? How is verse 24 helpful as we think of practical things to do?