

# Matthew 7

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## Matthew 7

The way to treat people

Respect and Inclusion: Respect and inclusion are the cornerstones of good relationships, regardless of the background, beliefs, or opinions of others. Empathizing with other people's feelings and positions can help resolve conflicts. Humility makes you more receptive to criticism and advice, which can lead to self-improvement. Clear and positive communication helps build and maintain good relationships. Listen to others and respond constructively. Everyone has their own rhythm and way, and being patient with others and tolerating their shortcomings and differences can make getting along more harmoniously.

Matthew 7: "The Way of Others" and "The Way of Eternal Life"

In Matthew 7, Jesus teaches us how to treat others and guides us on the way to eternal life. He reminds us not to judge others, because judgment is the easiest way to destroy our unity. Even unintentionally, our words can be exploited by the enemy, causing harm and division.

"Judgment" means judgment and condemnation. The reason why people like to judge is that they often do not see the similarities between themselves and those who are judged. We often ignore our own problems and magnify the small mistakes of others, and this is the essence of judgment. Jesus warned us that if we treat others by this standard, God will treat us by the same standard. Therefore, we should first seek self-examination, correct our own problems, and learn to be strict with ourselves and lenient with others.

As people of the kingdom of heaven, the more we are illuminated by God, the more deeply we will know ourselves, and the less we dare to judge others easily. As 1 Corinthians 4:3 says, "I am judged by you, or by others, and I am judged by you and by others, and I do not judge myself even for the smallest things, for it is the Lord who judges me." Therefore, we should ask the Lord to help us not to judge others casually, but also to focus on God's view when confronted with the judgment of others, because only His judgment is just.

Love and the way to treat others

Jesus taught us that proper relationships are based on a normal relationship with God. God is kind to us, and we should treat others with the same love. People who criticize others are often a sign of a lack of love in their hearts. If our hearts are filled with love, we will not be quick to criticize others, but will look at their shortcomings with compassion and kindness.

Jesus also reminds us to consider the receptivity of others when sharing spiritual things with others, and not to give God's holy things to others who do not cherish them. This is not to say that we should reject evangelism, but that we need to discern wisely between who and when to avoid spiritual treasures being trampled on and even unwarranted attacks.

The way of eternal life

Jesus pointed out that there are two ways to the end of life: eternal life and destruction. The gates of perdition are wide and the roads are large, and many people go in; But the gate of eternal life is narrow and the way is small, and few people find it. Although everyone longs for eternal life, many fail to persevere on the path because it is difficult and unpopular.

A truly good tree will bear good fruit, and a true believer will do God's will. Hearing God's word and not doing it is like building a house on sand that will collapse in the face of a storm. However, those who have built their lives on a rock will stand tall even in the face of adversity.

There are many passages in the Bible that speak of "the way of treating others" that teach us how to treat others with love, compassion, humility, and justice. Here are some related verses:

Matthew 7:12

"Therefore in all things that ye would do unto you, so do ye also: for this is the law and the doctrine of the prophets."

Leviticus 19:18

"Thou shalt not take revenge, nor grumble against thy own people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. I am Yahweh."

Ephesians 4:32

"Be kind to one another, and be merciful, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

Colossians 3:12-13

"Therefore, being ye God's chosen people, holy and beloved, be merciful, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. If there is a disagreement between this person and that person, let one another bear with one another and forgive one another. As the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."

James 2:1-4

"My brethren, believe in Jesus Christ our Lord of glory, and do not make others outwardly clothed."

Galatians 6:2

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way the law of Christ will be fulfilled."

Proverbs 19:17

"He who pities the poor and the poor lends it to the Lord Hova; His good deeds will be repaid by the Lord."

Let us return to Christ and walk on the path to eternal life through His life and the help of the Holy Spirit. He promises us, "Ask and give it to you, seek and find, and knock and open it to you."

We pray together:

Merciful Holy Father, thank You for your kindness to us and for allowing us to learn from Your teachings. May we choose the narrow gate, be good trees, bear good fruit, and submit to Your will. Lord, help us to hear and walk in the word, so that our lives are built on a rock. Even in the face of life's storms, we can not waver, because You are our foundation.

Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

## Matthew 7

7 Do not judge *and* criticize *and* condemn others, so that you may not be judged *and* criticized *and* condemned yourselves.

<sup>2</sup> For just as you judge *and* criticize *and* condemn others, you will be judged *and* criticized *and* condemned, and in accordance with the measure you [use to] deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you.

<sup>3</sup> Why do you [a]stare from without at the [b]very small particle that is in your brother's eye but do not become aware of *and* consider the beam [c]of timber that is in your own eye?

<sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, Let me get the tiny particle out of your eye, when there is the beam [d]of timber in your own eye?

<sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first get the beam of timber out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the tiny particle out of your brother's eye.

<sup>6</sup> Do not give that which is holy (the sacred thing) to the dogs, and do not throw your pearls before hogs, lest they trample upon them with their feet and turn *and* tear you in pieces.

<sup>7</sup> [e]Keep on asking and it will be given you; [f] keep on seeking and you will find; [g]keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup> For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> Or what man is there of you, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will hand him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will hand him a serpent?

<sup>11</sup> If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good *and* [h]advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give good *and* [i]advantageous things to those who [j]keep on asking Him!

<sup>12</sup> So then, whatever you desire that others would do to *and* for you, even so do also to *and* for them, for this is (sums up) the Law and the Prophets.

<sup>13</sup> Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious *and* broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and many are those who are entering through it.

<sup>14</sup> But the gate is narrow (contracted <sup>[k]</sup>by pressure) and the way is straitened *and* compressed that leads away to life, and few are those who find it.

<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves.

<sup>16</sup> You will <sup>[l]</sup>fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

<sup>17</sup> Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [<sup>[m]</sup>worthy of admiration], but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit.

<sup>18</sup> A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear <sup>[n]</sup>excellent fruit [worthy of admiration].

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, you will <sup>[o]</sup>fully know them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

<sup>23</sup> And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].

<sup>24</sup> So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them] will be like a <sup>[p]</sup>sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock.

<sup>25</sup> And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man who built his house upon the sand.

<sup>27</sup> And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great *and* complete was the fall of it.

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished these sayings [the Sermon on the Mount], the crowds were astonished *and* overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His teaching,

<sup>29</sup> For He was teaching as *One* Who had [and was] authority, and not as [did] the scribes.

**Matthew 7 is the final chapter of the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5–7), one of the most significant discourses of Jesus in the New Testament. It presents a range of teachings that emphasize ethical living, humility, discernment, and reliance on God. The chapter underscores the**

importance of personal responsibility in spiritual growth and offers guidance on interpersonal relationships, judgment, and discernment.

The chapter can be divided into several key sections:

1. **Judging Others (Verses 1–5)**  
Jesus warns against hypocritical judgment, urging His followers to first address their own faults before criticizing others. The famous metaphor of the speck and the plank illustrates the importance of self-awareness and humility.
2. **Discernment in Giving (Verse 6)**  
This verse advises caution in sharing sacred truths with those who might not appreciate or respect them, using the imagery of dogs and pigs.
3. **Ask, Seek, Knock (Verses 7–11)**  
Jesus encourages persistent prayer and faith in God's goodness, assuring that God gives good gifts to those who ask.
4. **The Golden Rule (Verse 12)**  
A summary of ethical teaching: "Do to others what you would have them do to you." This principle encapsulates the essence of the Law and the Prophets.
5. **The Narrow and Wide Gates (Verses 13–14)**  
Jesus contrasts the difficult path leading to life with the broad and easy road leading to destruction, emphasizing the need for deliberate choices in following God.
6. **True and False Prophets (Verses 15–20)**  
A warning against false teachers, with guidance to discern their character by their "fruits" (actions and outcomes).
7. **True and False Disciples (Verses 21–23)**  
Jesus highlights the importance of obedience to God's will over mere verbal profession of faith, warning that not all who call Him "Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven.
8. **The Wise and Foolish Builders (Verses 24–27)**  
A parable contrasting those who build their lives on the solid foundation of Jesus' teachings with those who neglect them, likened to houses built on rock and sand.
9. **The Authority of Jesus (Verses 28–29)**  
The chapter concludes with the crowd's amazement at Jesus' teaching, recognizing His authority as distinct from that of the scribes.

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### Important Verses

1. **Matthew 7:1-2**  
*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*  
This verse emphasizes humility and the danger of self-righteous judgment.
2. **Matthew 7:7-8**  
*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to*

*you."*

A powerful promise of God's responsiveness to persistent faith.

3. **Matthew 7:12**

*"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."*

Known as the Golden Rule, it serves as a cornerstone of Christian ethics.

4. **Matthew 7:13-14**

*"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

A call to choose the challenging but rewarding path of righteousness.

5. **Matthew 7:24-27**

*"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."*

This parable stresses the importance of living according to Jesus' teachings.

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## Theological Thought

1. **Judgment and Grace:**

Matthew 7 highlights the balance between human accountability and divine grace. It cautions against self-righteous judgment while encouraging believers to rely on God's wisdom and forgiveness.

2. **The Kingdom Ethic:**

The chapter encapsulates the ethical demands of God's kingdom, urging followers to live in alignment with God's will, characterized by love, humility, and discernment.

3. **The Authority of Jesus:**

The chapter affirms Jesus' authority as a teacher and moral guide, whose words carry divine weight and demand obedience.

4. **Faith and Works:**

It emphasizes the integration of faith and action, suggesting that true discipleship involves more than words—it requires living out God's principles.

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## Spiritual Influence

1. **Personal Transformation:**

Matthew 7 challenges believers to examine their hearts, prioritize self-awareness, and cultivate humility in their relationships.

2. **Prayer and Trust in God:**

The "Ask, Seek, Knock" passage inspires confidence in God's willingness to provide, deepening faith and reliance on Him.

- 3. Ethical Living:**  
The Golden Rule has influenced countless ethical systems and continues to inspire individuals to treat others with kindness and respect.
- 4. Discernment:**  
The teachings on false prophets and narrow gates encourage vigilance and intentionality in spiritual growth, reminding believers to align with God's truth.
- 5. Foundation for Life:**  
The parable of the wise and foolish builders offers a timeless metaphor for the importance of grounding one's life in enduring spiritual principles.

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**Matthew 7 remains a cornerstone of Christian theology, shaping ethical thought, spiritual practice, and the understanding of discipleship. Its teachings resonate across cultures and faith traditions, offering profound insights into the human condition and the path to spiritual fulfillment.**