



## *The King and His Kingdom*      *Matthew 7*

### **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Chapters 5-7)**

***Judge not, that you be not judged.***

*Matthew 7:1-5*

When a Christian is compelled to admonish a brother, one must first examine one's self and his/her own sinfulness. Recognize how the log is divinely and graciously removed from one's eye—by trusting in the suffering and death of Jesus on our behalf—so that one may carefully assist a brother or sister in faith to repent and abandon the path onto which he or she has strayed.

***Ask—seek—knock, and it shall be yours.***

*Matthew 7:7-11*

This section is not about the one who asks, seeks or knocks. It is about the one who desires to give, reveal and open.

If you (disciples of mine) who are evil know how to give good gifts, how much *more* will our Father in heaven (who is *not* evil) give good things to those who ask him?

***Do to others as you would have them do to you.***

*Matthew 7:12*

The “Golden Rule” is an excellent teacher. It answers nearly every question about how to life in this world. But, it is directed at disciples of Jesus.

### **JESUS ADMONISHED HIS DISCIPLES IN FOUR WAYS:**

***Enter through the narrow gate***

*Matthew 7:13-14*

The way is narrow because it follows the steps of Jesus. Not many will continue on this difficult path.

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***Beware of the false prophets among you.***

*Matthew 7:15-20*

Their words may sound good but their actions do not back them up. They are in it for themselves. And then there is this....

***Some who speak the truth are hypocrites at heart.***

*Matthew 7:21-23*

The sinful nature of man is so twisted that even some who follow Jesus outwardly do not have faith in him. I have shown you how not to be one of them.

***Wisdom is found in hearing and following Jesus.***

*Matthew 7:24-27*

The disciple of Christ can weather all of life's storms.

## **Walking in Matthew's Sandals**

### **Further study and discussion:**

Reread Matt. 7:11. God desires to give good things to his children. What are God's good things? (Hint: review the meanings of the petitions in the Lord's Prayer in Chapter 6.) Do your prayers seek the good things of God? How does one explain God's seeming failure to provide what we think is good?

Reread Matt. 7:12. When you “do unto others,” what, if anything, do you expect in return from brothers and sisters in faith? From non-Christians? What constitutes “bad fruit” as discussed in vv. 15-20? What is good fruit? Describe a community of Christians that bears an abundance of good fruit.

**For next time, read and reread Matthew 8 and 9.**