

Week 7

Matthew series: God revealed

Matthew 7: The New Commandments (*Deeper with God: part three*)

So, what does God expect? Up till now Matthew has tried to paint a picture of who Jesus is. He aligned Jesus geographically and prophetically together. The stories of old are true. Jesus is the awaited Messiah. Matthew establishes Jesus as greater than Moses. Matthew establishes that Jesus is greater than Satan. Beginning in Matthew 5 this writer Matthew is establishing Jesus as greater than humans. Jesus words and wisdom reach far beyond normal thinking.

How does a person or company usually establish themselves?

Us

1. Territory
2. Advertising
3. Moto
4. Guiding principles

Jesus

Jesus is in the Judean countryside
 God uses signs and angels
 God is with us and the kingdom is near
 Matthew 5-7 (Beatitudes and insights)

List some famous people or companies that established themselves? What are there slogans?

Matthew 7:14 **“But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”**

Psalm 9:10 **“Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.”**

Matthew has done it. He has set the table for Jesus to preach his message. All the principles of Matthew 5-6 will be displayed throughout the rest of this gospel. Jesus does not just preach a good word. He lives that word. He expects us to follow these teachings. The bar is too high. People could not keep the 10 commandments let alone the beatitudes. The religious rulers believed they did keep the law. They taught the people their way of keeping the law of God. Jesus came to blow a hole in their religious boat. Has your perception of God and Jesus changed in the last several months?

Matthew 7:21 **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”**

Isaiah 25:8 **“he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.”**

Revelation 21:4 **“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

Matthew 7 is an accumulation of all God was in the Old Testament and all he is in the New Testament. Matthew 7 begins a new chapter in the lives of people. We are to take Gods word and put it into shoe leather. That means we are to walk and talk like little Jesus’. We all are disciples of the Christ now. Remember, to be Christ-like is not to be Jesus. Many would argue that. We will never be sinless. We will never be more than a fallen people until Jesus returns. Yet, we can change our ways because Jesus gives us a reason and ability we never had before. It’s his sacrifice to appease God. It is also the ability of God to change us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew gives us new insight into how God and Jesus work in the lives of people to be God-like. Matthew 7 is much of all we need. God is judge. The religious rulers used to judge. Jesus now asks us not to judge. Do not treat Gods word as scraps for pigs or dogs. We can ask God directly now. In days gone by there was a separation in Gods temple. A huge curtain closed off our access to Gods holy place. After Jesus died it says that curtain was torn in two. We can ask, seek, and knock on Gods door because the door is open.

There is not just any way to God. You will hear that there are several things you can do to appease God. There are several religions to receive God. Matthew 7 says no; the gate is narrow and to beware of false prophets who bare bad fruit. In the mirror is the key test. Do you talk a good talk before God? Can God be fooled? Secondly, what do you do with the word God tells you? Is there change? Do you walk in Christian shoe leather or is it the latest style? Who are you now in Christ?

Read Matthew 5 again and relate the words to Matthew 7. Extra reading Psalm 24 and Psalm 84:11

1. If there is a chapter in the Bible that displays some of the greatest quotes in the Bible Matthew 7 might be it.

Verse 1 do not judge or you will be judged.

Verse 5 first pull the log out of your own eye before you point out other people’s faults.

Verse 6 do not give what is holy to dogs or throw pearls before swine.

Verse 7 ask, seek, and knock

Verse 11 how much more will your father in heaven give to those who ask

Verse 12 do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Verse 14 for the gate is narrow and the road is hard

Verse 15 beware of prophets who come in sheep’s clothing

Verse 23 I never knew you, go away you evil doers

Verse 24 everyone who hears my words builds a rock foundation

The Matthew series week 7

Jesus continues a barrage of teaching in Matthew 7. From verse 1 to 12 Jesus wants us to put his teachings into shoe leather. We are not called to be the judge in life. We should leave that to God the Father. Jesus says in his prayer in Matthew 5 that we are to do on earth as it is done in heaven. Matthew 7 begins with another declaration that judging others is bad. Our actions will be used against us. Why? Because God will treat you rightly. If you're of God, then do the same for others. Secondly, this dogs and swine verse 6 is fun but a warning. Do not take Gods holy things and treat them like slop. Our godly intent just might get trampled because it was not of God but of ourselves.

Matthew 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you."

Psalm 29:2 "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy array."

2. The message from the Prophets was to do like God to others. The message of God has always been this way. People take Gods word and twist it and distort it to fit their sin. It's that way today. We accept many things in God's house that was blasphemous only a few years ago, Dogs and pigs live in Gods house now.

Christians are asked by God to reach the lost. Here in Matthew 7, beginning in verse 7, it appears we are asked to seek God. Which is it? People are so funny. They read one verse and think that is it. That is stone and nothing more. Is God only one thing? No, God is a multi-dimensional being. He is more than one thing. We are to seek the knowledge of God. We are to ask in prayer. We will find God in all things. God created everything. Yet, we are to be like God who searched for Adam and Eve in the garden. People hide in sin.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

Genesis 3:8-9 "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

3. I suppose that all roads just might eventually lead to Rome. If you kept walking straight that is. To promote God is to be in a tough place. Church buildings tend to promote God as loving and joyful. He is Santa. If we pray, pay, and play with God then he will be happy with us. The problem is that God does judge. God will discipline. God will allow tough times for good people. Everything God does is to bless us, but the road to God is narrow. Meaning it's his road and it's his way. Not many have the stomach for Gods road.

Another side is God's people. Who are they? Is everyone in a church God's people? I wish that were so but it's sadly not true. Bad people with bad intentions love to hide in good places. To know the real people is to know God. Once you know the truth about who God is then you will be able to see bad people in good places.

Matthew 7:20 "Thus you will know them by their fruits."

Psalm 37:1-2 **“Don't be upset because of evil people. Don't be jealous of those who do wrong, 2 because like the grass, they will soon dry up. Like green plants, they will soon die away.”**

4. It's very interesting that Judas never calls Jesus Lord. He calls him master. In my first marriage, I became despaired in self-pity. I began to call my wife my worst nightmare. I never called her my love. It's no wonder she left me. What name do we call Jesus or God? Is he a task master or Lord? The term “Lord, Lord” is an emphasis. Double wording in the Bible is for emphasis. Are you in love with God or just loved by God? Matthew ends this chapter with a haunting description of our spirituality. Is it built on solid rock or a sandy foundation? The warning is simple. Is your Christian walk a walk of discovery and enlightenment, or is it one of regimented rules, traditions, and commands? There is an extreme difference.
Matthew 7:21 **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.”**

Deuteronomy 6:5 **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”**

What does it mean?

The toughest part of my divorce was not my ex-wife. It was not the absence of marriage, companionship, or my children. I appeared to lose everything. One night I was listening to Dr. Laura on a tape. She said men need God. Something snapped inside my heart. It was like the Grinch who stole Christmas. It said his heart grew three times that day. My heart grew three times when I realized God existed. The toughest part was I lost everything I knew about the world and myself. Jesus says in the parable of the lost son Luke 15 **“But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”**

It has taken me years to find myself. I'm not sure after 18 years I have fully achieved that. I lost what I was but gained a soul. I lost a marriage but gained insight, compassion, and understanding. I say all this because Matthew 7 is exactly that. To know and find God is to throw out everything. The world is not what we think it is. Who we are is not who we think we are. In both cases there is more to know, understand, and learn. In Christian circles it's called renewed or reborn.

What this all means is the reason we believe is far more important than saying you believe. Some people say they believe because of a miracle. Some say they believe because of a feeling. Strip away good feelings, miracles, and wonders. Strip away church, christen music, and family. Stand before God in the bathroom. All you have is a naked person looking in a mirror. What do you see? To believe is to see God through your eyes within yourself and all you do. That is the message of Matthew 7.

Matthew 7:24 **“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.”**

Hosea 12: **“Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor He found Him at Bethel And there He spoke with us.”**