

Marks of A True Disciple

Matthew 7:1-29

Knowing Our Place in the Kingdom

Matthew 7:1-6

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ² For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. ⁶ “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

- **Giving Up Our Presumption to Judge Others**

James 4:11-12

¹¹ Do not speak against one another, brothers *and* sisters. The one who speaks against a brother *or* sister, or judges his brother *or* sister, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*. ¹² There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you, judging your neighbor?

Romans 14:1-6, 10-13

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not to have quarrels over opinions. ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but the one who is weak eats *only* vegetables. ³ **The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**

⁵ One *person* values one day over another, another values every day *the same*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and the one who eats, does so with regard to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and the one who does not eat, *it is* for the Lord *that* he does not eat, and he gives thanks to God... ¹⁰ **But *as for you*, why do you judge your brother *or* sister? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother *or* sister with contempt? For we will all appear before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written:**

**“As I live, says the Lord, to Me every knee will bow,
And every tongue will give praise to God.”**

¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God ¹³ Therefore let’s not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this: not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s *or* sister’s way.

- Then What is a “Righteous Judgment”?

John 7:24 Do not judge by the outward appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; ¹⁰ I *did* not at all *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is a sexually immoral person, or a greedy person, or an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or habitually drunk, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a person. ¹² For what *business* of mine *is it* to judge outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the evil person from among yourselves.

- The Issue of Saved or Lost?
- The Issue of Impugning Motives?
- The Issue of Right and Wrong?

The Approachable King

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰ Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

Hebrews 4:15-16

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

The Essence of the Law & Prophets

Matthew 7:12

¹² “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Gates, Sheep, Wolves, Trees, Fruit, Talk, Walk & Will: Litmus Tests of True Kingdom Living

Matthew 7:13-22

¹³ “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

- **Wide (Easy) & Many**
- **Narrow, Difficulty & Few**

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

- **Disguised**
- **The Fruit Test**
- **Can’t**

²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

- **Talk & Shallow Commitment**
- **God’s Will is More than Talk, and Even Action**

Building on a the Only Solid Foundation

Matthew 7:24-29

²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

- **What other foundations might “disciples” build on?**