

Faith for the Present
“The Mercy and Grace of God’s Kingdom -
Humility and Submission”
Sunday, September 20, 2020

- * Throughout this study in The Sermon on The Mount we have learned of the inward change that is needed to live this new life of God’s Kingdom!
- * The Beatitudes, bearing the fruit of God’s Spirit, keeping your word, modeling your life after His Kingdom principles, treasuring what God treasures and not worrying but rather seek His Kingdom above everything else!
- * It seems that now the Lord turns from the “interior change” of God working in us to the “exterior change” from the work in us!

Matthew 7:1-6 (NLT)

“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.

- I. Before we get into WHAT Jesus is saying, let’s settle what He is NOT saying!
 - A. Many people, both believers and nonbelievers, often say, “See there, we shouldn’t be judging the behavior of others.”

1. Is that what Jesus was saying?
2. Can't you just imagine the Pharisees looking at Jesus and saying, "Now Jesus, don't judge lest you be judged!"
3. Somehow that doesn't seem very likely!
4. There must be a much more nuanced approach considering what Jesus had just spoken and will continue to speak!

Matthew 7:15-20 (NLT)

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 thorn bushes, 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.

5. Let's be honest, that sounds a little bit like some people's definition of "judging!"
- B. Let's consider this: Is this simply the way God wants us to look upon others? With unconditional mercy and grace!
1. Do we think the WORST of people?
 2. Do we concentrate on people's FAULTS rather than the good?
 3. Do we judge the MOTIVES in people rather than merely observe the behavior or action?

II. What Jesus called the "Greatest Commandment" comes into

the picture here!

Matthew 22:36-40 (NLT)

36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 37 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

A. Jesus says to cultivate a love and passion for God with your whole self and your whole life!! Out of that love others as yourself!

1. Doesn't that sound an awful lot like verse 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.

2. It is so important that we remember that WE ARE ALL struggling with learning this new way to live!

3. This is extremely difficult with the “culture extremes” and “tribalism” of today's society!

4. We tend to “judge” the rightness and wrongness by this cultural tribalism!

5. Meaning we are COMPLETELY RIGHT OR COMPLETELY WRONG by this standard of measurement!

B. I think it is important to remember the “character of this new Kingdom of God” as we interact with each other and the world we live in!

1. We should live squarely upon Truth! The truth of The Lord's life as described in scripture as well as

the truth about a situation!

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

1 John 1:8 (NLT)

8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

1 John 3:18 (NLT)

18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 4:6 (NLT)

6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

2. Respect is another characteristic that is a part of this new Kingdom relationship!

Matthew 7:12 (NLT)

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.

Romans 12:10 (NLT)

10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Philippians 2:3 (NLT)

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

3. Humility is another characteristic of being like Jesus

and living in His new Kingdom!

Colossians 3:12 (NLT)

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Romans 12:3 (NLT)

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

C. In verse 6 Jesus continues to warn us about
“judgmentalism!”

Matthew 7:6 (TPT)

6 “Who would hang earrings on a dog's ear or throw pearls in front of wild pigs? They'll only trample them under their feet and then turn around and tear you to pieces!

1. It is important to remember that Jesus made this statement in context of “judging others” and thinking that you yourself “have it all together!”
2. Dogs and swine are “those who are hostile to the gospel!”
3. Never loose sight of the fact that we are to teach and live the gospel of this new Kingdom...changing lives can only come from God's Spirit!
4. Let's remember that all of us are in a PROCESS OF

BECOMING what God has recreated us to be!

5. Therefore, the patience and humility of God is a must in our lives as it relates to on another!