

## Matthew 7:1-12

Judge not, that you be not judged.

Matthew 7:1

PRAYER: Father, please teach me not to judge others. Show me how to ask, seek, and knock, and to apply the golden rule to my life.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 7:1-12, Jesus teaches His disciples about judging others, persistent prayer, and the Golden Rule.

### Matthew 7:1-12 Outline:

Judging - Read Matthew 7:1-6

“Ask, and It Will Be Given” - Read Matthew 7:7-11

Golden Rule - Read Matthew 7:12

## Judging - Read Matthew 7:1-6

1. In this passage, the word *judge* carries the meaning of condemning another person (v.1). What does Jesus say will happen to us if we condemn or judge another person? (See also James 2:13.)

2. PROPOUND: Describe the difference between a plank and a speck (see Matthew 7:4).

3. PROPOUND: Are we ever to judge others? (See 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, Romans 14:10, and James 4:11.) If yes, what are we to judge?

4. Romans 8:1 says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...” Who is Jesus referring to? Who will judge or condemn us (v. 2) in equal proportion to what we judge and condemn others?

5. **PRODUCE:** If we see another Christian sinning, we are not to judge (condemn) them, because we are all sinners. What should we do instead? (See Matthew 18:15-17.)

6. **PROPOUND:** Once we have removed the plank from our eye (v. 5), we'll be able to see clearly. Describe what Jesus means by seeing clearly to remove the speck from our brother's eye.

7. **PROCEED:** We are commanded by Jesus: "Judge not, that you be not judged" (v. 1). On the other hand, the Bible also exhorts us to beware of evildoers (Philippians 3:2) and false prophets (Matthew 7:15) and to avoid those who practice all kinds of evil (Ephesians 5:11). How can we discern who these people are if we do not make some judgment about them? (See Matthew 7:20, 1 John 3:10, and 3 John 11.)

8. Before we mention an issue we see in another person's life (v. 4) and say, "Let me remove the speck from your eye," what should we do (v. 5)?

9. In biblical times, dogs were typically undomesticated and considered despised; swine were on the list of unclean animals (see Deuteronomy 14:8). What do the dogs and swine refer to? (See Proverbs 26:11, Isaiah 56:10-11, Philippians 3:2, and 2 Peter 2:22.)

10. PROCLAIM: What do you think Jesus refers to when he says “what is holy” and “pearls” (v. 6)? (See also Matthew 10:14-15; 15:26, Proverbs 23:9, Acts 13:45-47, and 2 Peter 2:22.)

## **“Ask, and It Will Be Given” - Read Matthew 7:7-11**

11. What are the three imperatives Jesus commands here (v. 7)?

12. What are the promises given by Jesus to those obeying His imperatives?

13. Who are we to ask? (See Psalm 50:15, Jeremiah 29:12, and Matthew 6:8; 21:22.)

14. What are we to seek? (See Psalm 27:8, Proverbs 8:17, and Matthew 6:33.)

15. PRACTICE: What do you think knocking implies (Matthew 7:8)? How is this something we should be doing in our lives? (See Luke 11:5-8 and Luke 18:1-8.)

16. PROTECT: Meditate upon the imperatives Jesus gives His disciples for their prayer life. They express commands to be diligent and persistent in your prayer life. What is your plan for putting this into practice in your life?

17. PROPOUND: In Matthew 7:9, what do you think Jesus was stating?

18. PROPOUND: What did Jesus mean by saying, “If you then, being evil...” (v. 11)?

19. PROPOUND: In Matthew 7:11, what do the “good things” refer to? (See also James 1:5; 17, and Luke 11:13.)

20. PROMOTE: What do you think the answer is to Jesus’ statement: “How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (v.11)? Share your answer with the group.

## Golden Rule - Read Matthew 7:12

21. This verse is often referred to as the Golden Rule. What does Jesus say we should “do”? (See also Luke 6:31.)

22. When should we “do” to others (v. 12)? Should we be proactive about “doing”?

23. PROPOUND: List some things that you want men to do to you—that you can proactively do first to bless them.

24. What does Jesus mean by “this is the Law and the Prophets” (v.12 )? (See Matthew 22:40, Romans 13:8, Galatians 5:14, and 1 Timothy 1:5.)

PROCESS: Take some time to review the importance of not condemning others, being persistent in your prayer life, and doing to others what you would want done to you. Highlight your key insights to share with the group.

PRAY: Father, please empower me not to be judgmental, to pray persistently, and to do for others what I want them to do for me.

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