

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/16-17/2021 *Matthew Chapter 7*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Objectives of Study – Our Thinking and Treating of Others

Jer 23:29 "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Jer 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

2Pe 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

2Pe 3:1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Chapter 7:*

Do Not Judge – (vs. 1- 6)

Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking – (vs. 7-12);

The Narrow Way – (vs. 13-14);

You Will Know Them by Their Fruits – (vs. 15-20);

I never Knew You – (vs. 21-23);

Build on the Rock – (vs. 24-29)

Do Not Judge!

Mat 7:1 "**Judge not** (having a critical attitude of judgment), **that you be not judged.**

- **As we have observed, the manner of the teaching of Jesus is to state a principle and then amplify it and illustrate it.** Now He touches on an important theme related to the way we think of and treat others. The basic principle here is to **judge not**, but of course, we must ask, what does He mean by that? As we read in its context, we realize that a lot of people, who know nothing about the Bible, quote this verse. Those who are living in sin, if you begin to talk to them about their life in sin, they will say, "Brother, you're judging me!" Speaking, as though it is wrong for you to rebuke them or to speak to them about the sin that they are committing.
- **In the very context, in just a few verses, Jesus will say, (Mat 7:6) "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.** That involves some judgment. I have to discern who I can share God's glorious truths with, and who I shouldn't.
- **A little further down in the chapter, Jesus will say, "Beware of false prophets."** How can I beware of a false prophet unless I discern the person to be a false prophet, which involves both judgment and discernment. All through the New Testament, we are encouraged to think and to discern.
- **Jesus is just not saying, "Don't judge."** What does He mean then? "**Judge not.**" There are certain things that I cannot judge that I am often prone to want to judge. That is, I cannot judge a person's heart! I cannot judge their thoughts or their motives. I am not to be hypercritical and condemning. That is a judgment that we are often guilty of. "Did you see the way he looked? You know he's up to no good." "Well, how do you know that?" "He only did that because....," as though we know what's in his heart, as though we know the motive.
- **If we hear of someone who has sinned and we hear that they have repented of that sin,** we say, Oh, I don't believe he really has repented. Wait a minute, how do you know? You see, that is a judgment that I am not allowed--to judge a man's heart, to judge a man's motive, and yet, we are prone to do that. It may be that he hasn't truly repented. It may be that he has. But if a brother repents or declares, "I repent, forgive me," then it is my obligation to forgive. Whether or not it is a true repentance in his heart or not, I don't know. But I am to forgive. I'm not to judge what is going on in his heart.
- **I can judge by the fruits of a person's life. I can observe their life** and the things that they are doing. If the things that they are doing are contrary to the plain, clear teaching of the scripture, I can judge by what I see going on in their lives. What I can't judge is what I can't see and that is what is going on in their heart.
- **Now many times, we are in a position where a person has asked for forgiveness,** has declared their repentance, and I am not certain whether or not they have truly, fully repented; but because I can't judge that, I have to accept them. I have to receive them. I have learned through the years that not all who say I repent have truly repented. I have been burned by forgiving those who said that they had repented. No doubt will be burned again. But I would rather, if I err, err on the side of mercy and grace and forgiveness than err on the side of wrong judgment. If I err on the side of grace and mercy, God's going to forgive me. If I err on the side of judgment, then I'm going to have to answer to God because that is a sin. So, judge not, that is, in a hypercritical, condemning way as though I know the heart and the motive of that person. Am I known or thought of as one who often exhibits critical judgment?

- **This does not mean we are not to observe what people are doing.** It doesn't mean that as we are looking at their life, we aren't coming to conclusions relating to their actions or their words. (*1Th 5:21*) *Test all things; hold fast what is good. We are testing all of life, continually by the word of God. But as we do that we are judging the situation, God's word is judging the situation. (Joh 7:24) Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (1Co 2:15) But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. (1Co 6:5) I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?*

Mat 7:2 *For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

- **Jesus tells us why we are not to judge!** First of all, *Judge not!* Secondly, *that you be not judged.* If I am guilty of wrong judgment, then I will be judged for my judging wrongly. When I judge someone else, I am then setting the standard by which I am to be judged. Generally, we are much more lenient with our own faults than that of others. We are much more understanding, more forgiving of ourselves than of others. How horrible our sins look to us when someone else is committing them!
- **Remember the story of David, after his horrible sin with Bathsheba.** Then the ordering of her husband to the frontlines where he might be killed in battle. When the prophet Nathan came to David he said, "David, a man in the kingdom, very wealthy, had everything a man could possibly desire. Next door to him there lived a man who was extremely poor. He had only one little ewe lamb that he loved dearly, it was like a pet, he kept it in his house. The rich man had company coming for dinner and he ordered his servants to go by force and take that one lamb from his neighbor and slay it so he could feed his company." David was furious. He said, "That man shall surely be put to death!". But then Nathan said, "David, you are the man!" Oh yes, our sins look horrible when someone else is committing them
- **When you judge, you are setting standards.** You see, the Bible tells us that we will be judged pretty much according to what knowledge that we have. Jesus speaks (*Luk 12:47-48*) *And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. [48] But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.* If you are judging a person for a particular action, that indicates that you know that action is wrong. If you are guilty of that very thing, then you are guilty of the violation of what you know to be wrong. Maybe he didn't know that was wrong. So, you're setting the standard of measurement by which you one day will be judged.
- **A test of how we may wrongly judge others in this context is to ask ourselves the following questions.** How often do I think the worst of others? When I only speak to others of their faults? When I judge an entire life only by its worst moments? When I judge the motives of others? When I judge others without considering myself in the same situation? When I judge others without being mindful that I, myself, will be judged. If I'm the kind of person that always finds fault with another person, their defense mechanism is then going to be to find fault in me, to spoil me as a creditable witness! In times when we find ourselves stubbing our toe, we will find we will get back what we have given to others. If we've been very merciful with others and non-judgmental towards them, then when we need their mercy and not their critical judgment toward us, we'll find that measured back to us.

Mat 7:3 *And why do you look at the speck (like a piece of sawdust, a splinter of their sin) in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank (a giant timber or beam of my sin - critical spirit) in your own eye?*

Mat 7:4 *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?*

Mat 7:5 *Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

- **Jesus gives us another reason not to judge others, because we really can't see clearly to judge** what's wrong in another person's life. Our judgment is always flawed by our own imperfections.

I've got a plank in my eye, and thus I can't see clear enough to take the speck or splinter out of my brother's eye.

- **We see an example of this when the scribes and Pharisees brought the woman taken in adultery** to Jesus. Obviously, she had certainly sinned; but their sin was much worse. Jesus exposed it. (*Joh 8:6-7*) *This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. [7] So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."*
- **It is wonderful to help remove the speck from your brother's eye, but to see clearly, first remove the plank from your own eye!**

Mat 7:6 *"Do not give what is holy to the dogs (not brothers); nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

- (*2Pe 2:22*) *But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A DOG RETURNS TO HIS OWN VOMIT," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."* There are people who are so closed to the Gospel. Their hearts are so hardened. They are so far gone that when you seek to share with them, they only turn it against you. The Lord is saying that you're not responsible to argue with that person and convince them of the truth of the things of God.
- **We are to witness to all. We are to share with all what God has done for us, but then it isn't my responsibility** to talk people into receiving Jesus Christ. Jesus is just saying that you're not to take the holy, wonderful things that God is doing in your life and in your heart, maybe that special work of the Holy Spirit in your devotions, and to share them with people who have no appreciation or understanding of the deep things of God that are taking place in your life. You are not to expose it to ridicule and to scorn.

Ask, and It Will Be Given

Mat 7:7 *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

- **Jesus turns to the subject of prayer declaring, Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**
- **Wonderful promises in prayer.** These are only a few of the tremendous promises that Jesus has given to us concerning prayer. *"Ask, and you shall receive,"* very positive. *"Seek, and you shall find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* Very positive. (*Mar 11:24*) *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (Joh 16:24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*
- **Jesus is teaching the disciples, not the general public.** (*Mat 5:1-2*) *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. [2] Then He opened His mouth and taught them.* He is not giving a wide, open promise to answers to prayer to just anybody, but he is giving it to those who have committed themselves to be His disciples. What does that commitment to discipleship entail? Jesus said, (*Luk 9:23*) *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

Mat 7:8 *For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*

- **When Jesus said, "Ask...seek....knock** (all present and continuing tenses), **and it will be opened** (future passive tense) **to you,**" He's talking to those who have come to the place of the cross in their own life, the denial of self. They are not looking for themselves; but they have taken up the cross. They have reckoned the old life, the old nature, the old man to be dead, crucified with Christ. Their desires aren't for their own glory or for their enrichment. Their desires are for the kingdom of God. They're following Jesus Christ. To that man who is so dedicated and committed to the selfless life, to following Jesus, he can have assurance that he **can ask and will receive. He will seek and he will find. He can knock and it shall be opened!**
- **But it isn't just to everybody and it isn't just to ask anything you want.** No, it's not just for me to ask for luxurious things to consume upon my own lust. That has been crucified. I've denied myself to follow Jesus, the self-life.

Mat 7:9 *Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?*

Mat 7:10 *Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?*

Mat 7:11 *If (since) you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

- **Jesus is again using the typical argument of the lesser to the greater.** You, earthly fathers, who are evil, if your child should come to you and say, Daddy, I'm hungry. Can I have a sandwich? You don't say, Go chew on the rocks outside, kid. If he asked for some fish, sardines or whatever, you don't give him a serpent. Now in, (*Luk 11:13*) *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*"
- **This is an important consideration because there are those who have very strange ghost like stories** about people who have been seeking God for the Holy Spirit. That somehow they received some kind of spurious experience in which some demonic force took over their life, which was horrible. But that is a blasphemous concept of God! That blasphemes the very character and nature of our heavenly Father! Just to think that a child could be asking Him for bread and He would give them a stone, Or to be asking for the Holy Spirit and He'd give them some false, spurious experience. This is far from the loving nature of our heavenly Father.

The Golden Rule

Mat 7:12 *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Gal 5:14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."*

- **Now Jesus begins to make the application to the teachings** that He has brought in the Sermon on the Mount. First of all, the final kind of the rule that covers all the bases. You want the rule that just covers everything?
- **Therefore, this sums it up! This is what it's all about.** It is doing unto others or doing for others what you would like to have them do for you. This is called the Golden Rule. In many respects this rule in essence given by Buddha years before Jesus. Only Buddha put it in the negative, "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you." Jesus put it in the positive, do unto others what you like them to do unto you. He put it in the positive.
- **The law and the prophets. Again, Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment.** He said, (*Mat 22:37-40*) *Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'* [38] *This is the first and great commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'* [40] *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* Loving your neighbor as yourself, doing for him what you would like done for you.
- **Now reviewing these injunctions of Jesus, on judging and all, and putting it in that light,** many things that we would do would be different! If I only did for you what I would like to have you be doing for me, I would like understanding. I would like compassion, mercy, forgiveness. Therefore, I must be compassionate.
- **It's an interesting thing that the critical person is the person who is quite often criticized** because he's critical. You want to get even with him. If you want people to really criticize you, just go around criticizing them in everything they do and you'll find that soon you'll be criticized for everything you're doing. Criticize not, that you may not be criticized!

The Narrow Way – (Matthew 7:13-29) - This closing section of the Sermon on the Mount is a gospel application. Here are two gates, two ways, two destinations, and two groups of people (*Mat 7:13-14*); two kinds of trees and two kinds of fruit (*Mat 7:17-20*); two groups at the judgment (*Mat 7:21-23*); and two kinds of builders, building on two kinds of foundations (*Mat 7:24-28*). Christ draws the line as clearly as possible between the way that leads to destruction and the way that leads to life.

Mat 7:13 *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*

- **There are two paths that you can take in life.** The one path, *the narrow gate*, leads to eternal life, the other path, *the broad way leads to destruction*.
- **The broad way, the wide gate is the popular way. It is the way of the world.** Don't think that as a Christian we're going to be able to be a majority and legislate a righteous community. You're up against the majority. We're living in a sinful world. Those that are going with the flow of the world, the broad way, are many!

Mat 7:14 *Because narrow is the gate and difficult (doing unto others) is **the way which leads to (the) life, and there are few who find it.***

- **Take a look at the path you're on! The big question is, where is it leading you?** The path that you are walking in life! Does it lead to eternal life or is it leading you to destruction? It is so painful and so hurtful to see people who are walking a path that is destroying them. But we see it all the time. People engaged in habits or in activities that are destructive. Are you? We look at the world today and we see the destructive practices in the world. We are aware of how destruction these practices are. And yet, people continue in them. They will not give up the path, though it is destroying them. (**Pro 14:12**) *There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.* The one path leads to destruction. The other leads to life.
- **The narrow gate is the gate both at the beginning of our experience with Christ, and at the end of our experience, our journey with Christ, leading us to eternal life! What an amazing thing, that although the gateway to eternal life is narrow, there is a way!**

Tree and Its Fruit

Mat 7:15 *"Beware (constantly on the lookout) of false (counterfeit) prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous (extortioners) wolves.*

Mat 7:16 *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?*

Mat 7:17 *Even so, every good tree bears (constantly bringing forth) good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.*

Mat 7:18 *A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.*

- **Beware, because there are false prophets and false teachers!** They'll be pointing you to the path that will lead to destruction. They will be encouraging you and enticing you towards a path that leads to destruction. There are many religions in the world and oftentimes. We hear people say, "Well, I'm confused, I don't know what religion to believe. I don't know which religion to practice."
- **Compare the religion of the Buddha. Buddha was a very interesting person. He taught many wonderful things.** Some of the things were parallel of sorts to the things that Jesus said. Buddha declared that the problem that we have in life stems from our physical nature and our desire for physical things. So the recommendation for peace and contentment is to lose all desire for physical things because true life is in the realm of the spirit. Thus, you can never find satisfaction or fulfillment in physical things and man's pursuit after physical things, in order to find happiness, is doomed for failure. Jesus taught basically the same thing. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things that he possesses. Happiness cannot be found in material possessions. It is the desire for these material things that creates all of the wars and fights in the world.
- **However the problem with Buddha is that he could not give power to the people to live after the spirit.** Therefore, you will never find a Buddhist who can speak of complete contentment as having arrived. I want perfect peace and contentment, but it is never quite there. I still am hungry when I don't eat and have a desire for physical things. The ultimate, of course, is to lose even your appetite where you don't even desire food. But no one can really do that in these bodies.
- **Jesus pointed to the path of the spirit life in and through the Holy Spirit!** He said, "I will come and I will dwell in you, and I will give you power by My dwelling in you and by the Holy Spirit. You will receive power to live and walk after the spirit." Buddha will always leave you frustrated but Jesus comes in and fulfills in you that life and walk in the spirit!
- **We must be on guard against those** who would lead you into a path of religion, who would prescribe for you the works whereby you can please or appease the wrath of God, or please God. (**Titus 3:5**) *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved*

us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. (*Isaiah 64:6*) But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

- **In the eyes of the Lord, Christianity differs from religion** because religion has you doing works to please God. Whereas Christianity points you to the work that God has done. You are simply required to put your trust and faith in what He has done!
- **Religions would have you reaching out to touch God.** Christianity has God reaching out to touch you. There is that the vast difference! It is impossible that finite man could ever reach or touch an infinite God! But there is no problem for an infinite God to reach finite man! In Christianity, that's exactly what you have, the infinite God reaching down to touch the finite man!

Mat 7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

- **Every tree that does not bear good fruit.** Every preacher and teacher that does not bring the Gospel of Christ with him, and plainly and faithfully preaches it to the people, sooner or later, *is cut down*. He may have had a good reputation, speaking great swelling words of vanity", behaving with much "loftiness" and "haughtiness." Yet, the time comes on, when all this is bowed and made low, "and the Lord alone is exalted": Such preachers are either cut off from the churches of Christ, or cut down by death, *and thrown into the fire*; into the fire of hell; into the lake of fire and brimstone, "where the beast and false are"!

Mat 7:20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

- **This is the conclusion, which generally is that as men are, so are the doctrines they preach.** By them they may be known and judged to be what they are. Here Christ is speaking not so much of men of bad lives and conversations, who take upon them to falsely teach others. They are rather easily detected, and generally discarded. But the exhortation and warning is against men that put on sheep's clothing, pretending to much holiness of life and conversation. Under that disguise delivering out the most corrupt and unwholesome doctrines; which depreciate the Lord and His grace, doing much damage to the souls of men.
- **It is important that we look at our own life.** The Lord stresses over and over again the importance of our bringing forth fruit. Jesus spoke of the tree that did not bring forth fruit. How that the master said, "Cut it down!" Jesus came to a fig tree, when He was hungry. He found there were only leaves. There was no fruit on it. He cursed it! Immediately, the tree withered and died, which greatly surprised the disciples!
- **The importance of bearing fruit!** Jesus speaks of bearing fruit (*Joh 15:5, 8*) "*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. [8] By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*"
- **That is an easy barometer by which to measure your walk. Is my life really fruitful for the Lord?** Am I bearing fruit in my life? Is my walk with Christ being manifested in my character? Has it made me a sweeter, kinder, more compassionate person? Am I bringing forth that kind of fruit? Or am I critical, hypercritical, judgmental, angry, upset, bitter, snapping at everybody, as I witness to them, telling them of the joy they could have in serving the Lord. "*By their fruit you shall know them.*" **We are to be fruit inspectors!**

I Never Knew You

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

- **Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven.** You can't enter the kingdom of heaven if you don't acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord. Peter said, (*Acts 4:12*) "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Paul said, (*Romans 10:9*) "*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*"
- **No one is going to enter the kingdom of heaven who has not and does not acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord.** But not everyone who says, **Lord, Lord**, is even going to make it. There are many people that are saying the right things. Now all who say... Jesus said, (*Luk 6:46*) "*But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*" That's being inconsistent. Not all who say, **Lord, Lord**. If He is my Lord, then I'm obedient. I'm going to be doing what He commands. But not so with the disobedient.

Mat 7:22 *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*

- **If you say, yes, it's what you do, that's important.** They were saying the right thing, and they were even doing things. *'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*
- **We were told in (Mat 6:1) "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.** Be careful that your motive in the things that you're doing, the righteous deeds, the righteous things. Be careful that your motive isn't to be seen and recognized and be praised by men. Doing things in such a way as drawing attention to yourself, and the purpose is that of being applauded or noticed by man. Be careful, He said, that that isn't the motive. But when you do these things, do them as unto the Father in secret, before the Father, and your Father will reward you openly.
- **So here people were doing things, but they were doing things in such a way as they were drawing attention; or using these things to enrich themselves.** We must be aware of those who just want to get into our wallets!
- **Lord, we've done a lot of wonderful things. We've prophesied in Your name.** We have cast out devils in Your name. We have done wonderful works in Your name. But there was something wrong.

Mat 7:23 *And then I will declare to them, 'I never (never, ever) knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Nah 1:7) The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him. (1Co 8:3) But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. (2Ti 2:19) Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

- **I never knew you** - That is, I never approved of your conduct. I never regarded you as My friends. This proves that, with all their pretending, they had never been true followers of Christ. Jesus will not then say to false prophet that He had once known them and then rejected them; that they had been once Christians and then had fallen away; that they had been pardoned and then had apostatized, but that He had never known them. They had never been true Christians. Whatever might have been their pretended joys, their hopes, their self-confidence, their visions, their zeal, they had never been regarded by the Savior as His true friends. This is a strong proof-text that Christians do not fall from grace! It settles the question; and proves that whatever else such people had, they never had true salvation.

Build Your House on the Rock

Mat 7:24 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:*

Mat 7:25 *and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

- **Here is the key again...** hearing the sayings of Jesus. Going back over the Sermon on the Mount, the things that He has just taught us, and doing these things.
- **A wise man who built his house on the rock:** The foundation is first thing! That is the gate, you enter to go into the path. Make sure that you've got the right gate! You're going to build a house, a religious structure, make sure that you have the right foundation. Make sure that you are founded upon Jesus Christ and the Word of God. Not upon a system of man, not upon a system of works, rules, regulations, but that you're founded upon Jesus Christ! My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood, His righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. I'm founded, dug in deeply, laid a foundation. When the storm comes, and they will come, you'll survive, the house will stand!

Mat 7:26 *"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:*

Mat 7:27 *and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

- ***The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house!*** Jesus is saying what we're going to face stormy issues in life. Things are not always going to be smooth. Every day will not be sunny. There will come storms. These houses looked alike, except that one had a foundation on the rock, the other had a foundation on the sand, which was no foundation. It was just built on the sand. It had no real foundation. There are people who have built their spiritual experiences upon experiences. People are building their houses upon experience. But, experience is a bad thing to build your faith on.
- **You can't build your faith upon feelings. You can't build a house on the way you feel.** Oh, I felt so glorious, just like there were oceans of love sweeping over me. What a glorious experience. No, you can't establish your faith upon feelings, Not on experiences such as, I know I'm saved because I feel this warm liquid love just flowing all over me.
- **My faith has to be founded on the Word of God.** This is what God's Word said, because my faith is going to face a test. It's going to face trials, there are going to be storms. If it is based on feelings and experiences, then I'm going to feel horrible when the storms come. If it's solidly built on the word of God, every Christian will be prosperous. Faith has to be founded in the Word. He dug and laid the foundation on the rock. When the hard times come, you're going to stand and weather the storms of life because you've got the right foundation!

The Authority of Jesus

Mat 7:28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

Mat 7:29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- ***They were astonished at the things... This took them by surprise.*** The scribes were typical of those in public office who never wanted to be responsible for any decision they make. They are always putting the responsibility and blame on someone else. No bureaucrat wants to make a decision that one day he might have to be responsible for. The scribes were the same ! When they would teach, they would never say, this is what God's Word declares. They would never teach with just a positive assertiveness. But they would say, now Rabbi Hallel says, and they would always be quoting what someone else said about the passage. Notice Jesus said, You have heard that it has been said.. but I say unto you! Scribes would never do that.
- ***They were astonished because He spoke with real authority,*** not like the scribes, but with real authority. Why? Because He is the authority. He was the One who inspired the scriptures. Thus, He speaks with authority when He speaks of the things of God.

SUMMARY POINTS:

Do Not Judge – (vs. 1- 6)

Mat 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. Do not have a critical spirit, pass sentence, nor judge another person's heart, thoughts or motives!

Mat 7:6 Be discerning! "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking – (vs. 7-12);

Mat 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Mat 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The Narrow Way – (vs. 13-14);

Mat 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Mat 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Make sure what path you are on and whether it leads to eternal life or to eternal destruction!

You Will Know Them by Their Fruits – (vs. 15-20);

Mat 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Mat 7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? We are to be wise and discerning fruit inspectors, knowing the difference among good fruit, bad fruit and no fruit!

I never Knew You – (vs.21-23);

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Mat 7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' Are you sure you know Jesus? Perhaps even more importantly, are you sure He knows you?

Build on the Rock – (vs. 24-29)

Mat 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: Mat 7:25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. How strong is our faith when the winds blow and beat on us?

The Authority of Jesus

Mat 7:28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, Mat 7:29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Notice the effect and response of the people having heard this teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. Is that the effect on me?

Closing Prayer:

- Father, we thank You for the Word, which is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. How we thank You, Father, for sending Your only begotten Son to speak to us in these last days, to reveal to us the way, the truth and the life. Help us to follow Him in the path that He leads, though it be narrow and difficult, we know Lord that You will sustain us by Your guiding and strengthening hand. Thank you Lord for Your Word! May we build our house upon it. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.

Closing Song:

Build Your House on the Rock - Mat 7:24, "built his house on the rock" & Mat 7:25 "it was founded on the rock."

"CORNERSTONE" (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less) Hillsong (3:28)

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' name (2X)

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!

When Darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all! He is Lord! Lord of all!

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord! Lord of all! Lord of all!!

Assignment for next week: Read Matthew Chapter 8