

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 26 - Judging Others - Matthew 7:1-6**

**Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.**

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

MT 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. [2] For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

MT 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? [4] How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? [5] You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

MT 7:6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Lesson 26 - Judging Others - Matthew 7:1-6**

305. What happens to those who are judgmental or critical? (7:1)
306. In what way will we be judged? (7:2)
307. By what measure will we be judged? (7:2)
308. What kind of faults do we notice in others? (7:3)
309. How did Jesus illustrate the foolishness of the way we find fault with others? (7:3)
310. What figure of speech did Jesus use to illustrate how blind we are to the shortcomings in our own lives? (7:4)
311. What did Jesus call those who ignore their own imperfections and focus on the flaws of others? Why? (7:5)
312. When is it good to confront others with their faults? (7:5)
313. Why is it necessary to deal with one's own sins first? (7:5)
314. What are we not to do with sacred things? Why? (7:6)

315. What may happen if we disregard Jesus' warning? (7:6)

### **Lesson 27 - Ask, Seek, Knock - Matthew 7:7-12**

MT 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

MT 7:9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? [11] If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! [12] So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 27 - Ask, Seek, Knock - Matthew 7:7-12**

316. What did Jesus say will happen if we bring our requests to Him? (7:7)

317. What happens when we seek in Christ's name? (7:7)

318. According to Jesus, what is the result for those who "knock" on God's door? (7:7)

319. How do loving parents respond to a child's request for bread? (7:9)

320. How do loving parents respond to a child's request for fish? (7:10)

321. What is true about the character of even the best human parent? (7:11)

322. How can we be encouraged by the sight of godless parents doing good things for their children? (7:11)

323. What is the likelihood of God giving His praying children what they need? (7:11)

324. How are we to treat others? (7:12)

325. In what specific situations are we to follow the Golden Rule? (7:12)

326. Why is the command to treat others as you want to be treated so significant? (7:12)

## **Lesson 28 - The Narrow and Wide Gates - Matthew 7:13-14**

MT 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. [14] But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

## **Lesson 28 - The Narrow and Wide Gates - Matthew 7:13-14**

327. What command did Jesus give His followers in this passage? (7:13)
328. What exactly are we called to enter? Why? (7:13)
329. How did Jesus describe the gate to the kingdom of God? Why? (7:13)
330. In what way did Jesus describe the gate that leads to destruction? (7:13)
331. What was said about the road that leads to destruction? (7:13)
332. How many people are said to travel the path to destruction? (7:13)
333. What kind of gate leads to life? (7:14)
334. The small gate is attached to what kind of road? (7:14)
335. Where does the narrow road lead? (7:14)
336. How many people find and follow the narrow road? Why? (7:14)

## **Lesson 29 - A Tree and Its Fruit - Matthew 7:15-23**

MT 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. [16] By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? [17] Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

MT 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' [23] Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 29 - A Tree and Its Fruit - Matthew 7:15-23

- 337. Against whom did Jesus warn us? Why? (7:15)
- 338. What do false prophets look like on the outside? (7:15)
- 339. What are false prophets like inwardly? (7:15)
- 340. How did Christ say we could recognize false prophets? (7:16, 20)
- 341. What does nature reveal about a tree and its fruit? (7:16)
- 342. What kind of fruit do good trees bear? Why? (7:17-18)
- 343. What type of produce grows on bad trees? Why? (7:17-18)
- 344. What happens to trees that fail to produce good fruit? (7:18)
- 345. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? (7:21)
- 346. How will some people try to talk their way into heaven? (7:22)
- 347. What credentials or accomplishments will some people claim? (7:22)
- 348. How will Jesus respond to these impostors? (7:23)
- 349. What is necessary for entry into heaven? (7:23)

### Lesson 30 - The Wise and Foolish Builders - Matthew 7:24-29

MT 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. [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. [26] But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

MT 7:28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, [29] because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 30 - The Wise and Foolish Builders - Matthew 7:24-29

350. Who did Jesus say is wise? (7:24)
351. Besides hearing the words of Christ, what else must a person do in order to be considered wise? (7:24)
352. Jesus compared wise living to building a house on what kind of foundation? (7:24)
353. What sets fools apart from wise people? (7:24, 26)
354. In Jesus' analogy, what strong forces of nature pounded on the wise person's house? (7:25)
355. What was the effect of the wind and rain on the house? (7:25)
356. Why wasn't the house part of a "disaster area"? (7:25)
357. What kind of people did Jesus talk about in contrast to the wise person? (7:26)
358. What individuals are like a man who builds a house on sand? (7:26)
359. According to Jesus, foolish living is like building a house on what kind of foundation? (7:26)
360. In Jesus' analogy, what happened when the wind and water crashed against the fool's house? (7:27)
361. How did the crowd respond to Jesus' teaching? (7:28)
362. Why did the crowd react with amazement to Jesus' teaching? (7:29)