

A Study of the Christ

Text

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Sermon on the Mount	7:1-29		6:37-42, 31, 43-49	

Overriding Principles

- A kingdom citizen is to demonstrate responsibility, discernment, initiative, and diligence.
- Involvement in real life with all its difficulties and challenges is unavoidable and must therefore be embraced.

Main Points

- Do not judge lest you be judged (Matt 7:1).
- Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you (Matt. 7:7).
- Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 7:12).
- Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it (Matt. 7:13).
- Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves (Matt. 7:15).
- Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord" will enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven (Matt. 7:21).

Secondary Points of History, Culture, Words, and Grammar

- One of the most misapplied verses of the New Testament is **Matthew 7:1**. The warning is not against any and all kinds of judgment (cf. Jn. 7:24), but against self-righteous, unloving judgments. In fact, **Matthew 7:6** demands very severe judgment— withholding the word of God from certain people.

- Luke gives an expansion of the thoughts of Matthew 7:1-5 by showing that the judgments we make lead to the actions we take. We are to live positive, helpful lives. We can neither teach nor live what we do not first know. Luke additionally shows that applied judgment centers on the fact that we are to be about the business of imitating Jesus, not seeking our own way (**Lk. 6:37-42**; cf. Matt. 10:24; Jn. 13:16; 15:20; Lk. 22:27).
- Jesus' admonition to "ask, seek, and knock" is recorded in the Greek present tense, indicating a continuous action. Note additionally the relationship between Matthew 7:7 and 7:13-14. Finding a place off the beaten path requires inquiry, searching, and finally requesting access (**Matt. 7:7**).
- Matthew **7:11-12** shows us something very important about God and His love for us—He deals with us from the context a loving Father with beloved children (cf. Jn. 3:16-17).
- Note the "therefore" at the beginning of *The Golden Rule*. Matthew 7:7-11 provides the context for the proper understanding of the idea. Those who want God's truth for their own lives will want only to give that truth to others (**Matt. 7:12**).
- **Matthew 7:13-14** shows that truth is not something you stumble into or acquire by following the majority; it must be desired and pursued (cf. I Cor. 1:18-2:2).
- False prophets are a dangerous reality that must be recognized and rejected. Their fruits or work will betray their feigned kindness. Error is not made truth through mere pretense or by "smooth, flattering speech" (**Matt. 7:15-20**; **Lk. 6:43-45**; cf. Rom. 16:17-18; Lk. 7:1; Jn. 15:1-10; Rom. 7:4).
- There is a practicality to Jesus' teachings that cuts through any attempt to reduce it to mere philosophy. **Matthew 7:21** and **Luke 6:46** are classic examples of this truth—what could be more practical than to hear and do?
- Judgment Day will reveal the both the blinding nature and the complete failure of religious self-deception. We must be very careful what we choose to believe, not because truth is tricky, but because pride and selfishness are so strong (**Matt. 7:22**).
- To be "known" by Jesus we must know Him in the keeping of His word (**Matt. 7:23**; cf. Jn. 17:3).

- Jesus expands the practicality of Matthew 7:21 in the simple, but profound analogy of the two builders. Hearing and doing, while not the whole of relationship is nevertheless a core ingredient of it (**Matt. 7:24-27; Lk. 6:47-49**).
- The result of Jesus' teaching was that a sense of amazement was created among the people. They were accustomed to hearing what the great Rabbis had taught on a given matter. Jesus showed them that Scripture, not men, is the source of true authority (**Matt. 7:28-29**).

Relationship to the Church

- Christianity is realistic, not in reducing the standards of the Christ, but in seeing how religion addresses reality rather than a manufactured, nonexistent world.
- As attractive as are self-righteous judgments, and as unattractive as are truthful judgments, we must refrain from the former and practice the latter.
- The church must go forward with engaged brains, learning, seeing, discerning, and taking all appropriate action.
- We must not be a church of men, but of Christ.

Who is Jesus?

- He is the One who speaks of how things ought to be, never of how men want them to be.
- He is not "politically correct," but He is correct.
- He "dialed direct," what could mere men contribute to the Father's truth?