

## **Living The Kingdom Life**

### Matthew 7

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Matt 7 presents practical teachings on living as citizens of God's Kingdom.
2. They emphasize a righteousness that exceeds mere outward behaviour.
3. It calls for deep heart transformation that results in true holiness, wisdom, and spiritual fruitfulness.

#### **B. Judging Others (Matthew 7:1-6)**

1. The measure we use to judge others will be used against us.
2. We are all fallen and in need of grace.
3. He condemns hypocritical judgment, where people criticize small flaws in others while ignoring their own larger faults (See Lev 19:15; Rom 2:1).
4. True humility and self-awareness are required for right understanding of others.
5. Jesus advises discernment when sharing the gospel.
6. Not everyone is open to or worthy of hearing it.
7. Care should be taken to avoid judgmental attitudes, let God's grace shape us.

#### **C. Asking, Seeking, Knocking (Matthew 7:7-11)**

1. Jesus encourages persistent prayer, saying that God, like a loving Father, will give good gifts to those who ask (vv. 7-8).
2. This demonstrates God's goodness and provision.
3. Unlike earthly fathers, God always responds with what is best for us.

#### **D. The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)**

1. "Do to others what you would have them do to you."
2. He claims this to be the fulfillment of the law.
3. This principle extends beyond avoidance of harm to actively seeking good.
4. We are called to love others as we desire to be loved.

#### **E. The Narrow and Wide Gates (Matthew 7:13-14)**

1. Jesus calls His followers to enter through the narrow gate, the path that leads to eternal life but is difficult and requires sacrifice (vv. 13-14).
2. The wide gate, representing the easier path, leads to destruction.
3. True discipleship demands a deliberate commitment.
4. Following Jesus is not easy or popular, but leads to the reward of eternal life.
5. The narrow path is the way of life.
6. We are called to love everyone, not just those who are easy to love.

#### F. True and False Prophets (Matthew 7:15-20)

1. Jesus warns against false teachers who appear sincere but lead others astray.
2. Discernment is key, as false prophets often disguise their true intentions.
3. The true test of a prophet's legitimacy is the fruit they produce.
4. Good trees bear good fruit, and bad trees bear bad fruit.
5. Likewise, a teacher's character, message, and life must align with God's truth.
6. Believers must also examine their own lives, striving to bear good fruit.

#### G. True and False Disciples (Matthew 7:21-23)

1. Jesus teaches that calling Him "Lord" is not enough (v. 21).
2. True discipleship involves doing the will of God, not merely professing faith.
3. Many will claim to have done works in Jesus' name but will be rejected.
4. Their lives did not reflect true obedience (vv. 22-23).
5. Authentic discipleship is marked by a transformed heart and life.

#### H. The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27)

1. Jesus compares the wise builder to the foolish builder.
2. One hears and obeys, while the other hears but does not act.
3. The wise builder's life is stable and enduring, even in the face of storms.
4. The foolish builder's life crumbles because they fail to apply Jesus' teachings.

#### I. Conclusion

1. The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) challenges believers to live according to the values of God's Kingdom.
2. True discipleship involves more than words.
3. It requires commitment, humility, discernment, and obedience to God's will.
4. Following Jesus means walking the narrow path.
5. We build our lives on His solid teachings, and are transformed by His grace.
6. The Christian life is a life of active love, spiritual fruitfulness, and deep relationship with God.
7. Choosing to follow the narrow path may be difficult, but it leads to eternal life, a reward worth pursuing.