

# BibleSanity.org – Remote Bible Study

## The Sermons, Parables, and Teachings of Jesus Christ

*Session 14 – The Sermon on the Mount, Part Nine, November 15, 2022*

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### **The Conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount**

In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus talks about the lovingkindness of God in respect to our prayers. Verses 9-11 have already been addressed to some degree in Session 11 (on Prayer).

In Matthew 7:12, Jesus gives us the Golden Rule, which we discussed in context of Luke 6:38, Session 13 (Judgment v Discretion).

#### **Matthew 7:7-8**

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

#### **Matthew 7:9-11**

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

#### **Matthew 7:12**

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

#### **Luke 6:38**

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Taken together, teaching the generosity of God followed by a call for us to be generous, should make perfect sense.

Next comes a simple teaching which is profoundly troublesome, that relatively few people find redemption. This illustration of a narrow gate which few find, is paired with the passages on discernment of false teachers and their rejection by Christ. It is a grave warning to stay on the straight path.

**Matthew 7:13-14**

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

In consideration of how to walk in the narrow way and enter in the straight gate, the historic audience had the Old Testament Scriptures and these words of Jesus to guide them. Salvation by faith in Christ, not by the legalistic traditions being taught by the temple – it is an exchange of religion for relationship.

There is more going on here than individual faith or choice, we get into the doctrine of Divine Election. Earlier in Jesus' ministry, in John 6:35-45, He addresses this some, and Paul elaborates on this in Ephesians 2:4-10.

**John 6:37, 40, 44**

v 37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

v 40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

V 44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We see the involvement of 'election' in v 37, but see salvation as conditional on faith in v 40, while vs 44 reestablishes that only those which the "Father draws" will come to Jesus. This is reflected clearly in Ephesians 2:8-9, which shows that Saving Faith is a gift, by the grace of God

Finally, Jesus ends with a parable requiring obedience to His Words.

**Matthew 7:24-27** (|| Luke 6:46-49)

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

There is a clear distinction made in the parable, as both the wise man and the foolish man heard the words of Christ. So do Christians who attend church and who read their Bibles, but the difference is obedience to the Word, not hearing. Note the passage of James 1:21-25 (below).

**James 1:21-25**

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Worth noting is the response to the Sermon on the Mount by the multitudes:

**Matthew 7:28-29**

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

No Bible Study Tuesday, Nov 22 (Thanksgiving Break)

We will resume Tuesday, Nov 29.