

Matthew 7.1-7

Introduction

- How does this section fit with the Sermon on the Mount?
- STOTT “It would seem quite logical, that having described a Christian’s character, influence, righteousness, piety and ambition, Jesus should concentrate finally on relationships”

Judging v1-5

- 2 sections v1,2 and v3-5
- Does this mean we are not to judge others?
- v5 is key to this section – hypocrite
- The standard that we apply to others is the one that will be applied to us
- v5 – implies we should help our brother/sister
 - Remove the plank and THEN you can help them
- What precautions can we take before we remove a speck?

Pearl v6

- What is the Pearl and who are the pigs/dogs?
- Pearl MT 13.44 Pearl of great price
 - The gospel, message of the kingdom
- Pigs/Dogs
 - Language used to describe non-believers
 - Folks to whom gospel has been presented/rejected repeatedly
 - Mt 10.12-14 disciples, dust off feet
 - Acts 18.5-6 – blood on your head
- What does this mean to evangelism?

Ask, seek, and knock v7-11

- The Sermon on the Mount sets high standards
 - MT 5.20 our righteousness should exceed that of the Pharisees
 - MT 5.48 be perfect
- Why do we not get everything we ask for?
 - v11 key – good gifts

Golden rule v12

- Common rule - Confucius, Stoics, OT Apocrypha
 - Do NOT do to anyone what you yourself would hate – negative
 - Jesus speaks in the positive – assumes we are involved/caring for our brother/sister

Closing

Pray that we would be careful in judging others by

- Examining ourselves before judging
- Speaking in love