



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Matthew 7

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Matthew 7.

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### Topics.

- Judge not that you be not judged.
- Ask seek and knock and it will be given to you.
- Enter by the narrow gate.
- Beware of false prophets.
- You will recognise them by their fruits.
- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
- The wise man who built his house on the rock.

**The previous chapter:** in the previous chapter Jesus teaches the disciples about praying and fasting, he talks of treasures on earth and treasure in heaven about the eye being the lamp of the body. He tells the disciples no-one can serve two masters and speaks about being anxious about life, treasures on earth and treasure in heaven, the birds of the air and lilies of the field and concludes by saying seek first the Kingdom of God and take no thought for the life of the body.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### MATTHEW 7:1-5

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#### Judge not that you be not Judged.

- **Matthew 7:1-5:** "Judge not (determine or condemn) that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you pronounce (determine) you will be judged, and with the measure (degree) you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Jesus has hypocrites in mind here (v5) the focus is those who are self-righteous, legalistic full of pride and esteem themselves while at the same time are judging and condemning others even though they are doing the same things themselves. If a person is acting wrongfully in some way and judges and condemns another person for behaving badly then the person who is judging or condemning will bring the judgement of God and the judgment of others on themselves, nobody likes a hypocrite especially when they tell others not to do something when they are doing that very thing themselves. It is interesting to notice that the only people Jesus spoke harshly to where the religious hypocrites (especially the leaders) because of their lack of mercy and hypocritical judgement.

**The speck and the log in the eye:** Jesus, asks the hypocrites why they see the speck in their brother's eye, but not the log in their own eye. It is very easy to be blind to our own sin the following is a simple example. We may see a Christian smoking or not attending meetings regularly etc., and immediately we judge, yet we may have gossiped about another person, sworn at a slow driver, spoken harshly to a work colleague, driven

faster than we should, watched a TV show of violence and sex, lusted over another man's wife or been jealous of someone's success in life etc., the list is endless. This is one of the reasons confessing (acknowledging) our sin is so important; it stops us from becoming blind to our own faults and judging and condemning others for theirs. One of the things the religious leaders the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes of Jesus era were doing was judging the common people for their lack of attention to religious feast days, sacrifices and Sabbaths etc., but they themselves lacked mercy and compassion, were legalistic and oppressing the people. They were full of religious self-righteousness, but blind to what was really important to God. We maybe be doing all the right things religiously, but if we are not showing mercy, kindness and compassion to others we are actually committing a greater sin than those who are not paying so much attention to religious ceremony but are full of compassion toward others.

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## MATTHEW 7:6

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### **Do not give Dogs and Pigs what is Holy.**

- **Matthew 7:6:** "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

The context this verse is in is about hypocrites; I suspect the term dogs and pigs in this context refer to the hypocrites. The treasure or pearls refer to the Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sins eternal life and fellowship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is saying do not attempt to witness to hypocrites, (at this time the religious leaders, chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) because they will simply attack you verbally by their legalistic knowledge of Scripture or in some instances physically harm you. The message here is you don't have to deliberately put yourself in harm's way or situations where you are going to be abused for your testimony even God does not force Himself on anybody.

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## MATTHEW 7:7-11

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### **Ask Seek and Knock and it will be Given to You.**

- **Matthew 7:7-11:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things (i.e., the Holy Spirit) (Luke 11:13) to those who ask him!

Jesus has just finished telling his disciple not to give their pearls to those who will harm them, now he is showing what the attitude should be for those who want the pearls (Holy Spirit) that God and those who know Him have. Jesus has the Holy Spirit of God in focus which embraces forgiveness of sins eternal life and fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ, these are referred to as pearls (in verse 6), thus the asking, seeking and knocking is for salvation. To receive anything from God there must be an attitude of asking, seeking and knocking, meaning a desire to want to hear about the things of God and receive what he has. Jesus is saying whoever has this kind of attitude will receive the Holy Spirit from God which embraces forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ these are the pearls of God.

Contrasted to this attitude Jesus is teaching his disciples that it is pointless to attempt to force or impose salvation onto others if they have no interest in God, the principal is people must want God's pearls (salvation) before they can receive them.

**Enter by the Narrow Gate.**

- **Matthew 7:12-14:** "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. <sup>13</sup>Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Jesus statement, "Enter by the narrow way" is in the context of doing to others as you would want them to do for you. This is the fulfilment of the six commandments concerning mankind and of Jesus words, "Love your neighbour as yourself." The narrow way embraces the following three things:

1. Following the Lord Jesus Christ and not going our own way and seeking our own pleasure.
2. Endeavouring to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus.
3. Helping those who are oppressed, the poor and those in need.

It is called the narrow way because to help someone in need requires some kind of self-sacrifice (i.e. money, time, labour, lack of privacy etc.). Doing to others as you would want them to do for you is fulfilling God's words, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Lev. 19:18) (Matt. 19:19). James the brother of Jesus calls this the Royal law (James 2:8). Jesus told his disciples the most important Commandment is:

- The Lord our God, the Lord is one and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31).

Thus; the narrow way is loving God and treating other humans with respect and decency, the apostle James says if we do this we are doing-well (James 2:8) and Paul says the entire law regarding mankind is summed up in the words, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Rom. 13:9) (Gal. 5:14).

**Beware of False Prophets.**

- **Matthew 7:15-20:** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognise them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Jesus warns that amongst his disciples there will be false prophets who will on the outside look and sound like they know God since they will know the Scriptures and to others Christians appear to be godly.

**Fruit:** in this context embraces love, grace, mercy, humbleness, being quick to forgive and caring about others, this kind of fruit is manifested in those who are self-sacrificing rather than self-serving whereas the religious leaders of Jesus day the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes only cared about their empire, authority, power and control over the people, they looked very religious on the outside, did all the holy things and knew

the Scriptures to a tee, but they lacked mercy and compassion on the inside, their focus was self rather than others. Jesus says, a person with a good heart will not produce corrupt followers, a good heart in this context is one that cares about others, but a person with a corrupt heart will not produce good fruit. In contrast to a good heart a corrupt heart is one that only cares about self they are in the ministry for their own gain. These ministers will produce disciples that do not care about others and their followers will be self-serving, meaning they will be following their leaders for what they can get from God, rather than following God because He is God.

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## MATTHEW 7:21-23

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### **Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the Kingdom.**

- **Matthew 7:21-23:** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

The words, "Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter the Kingdom of heaven" is in the context of, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Those that the Lord calls workers of lawlessness are those who think godliness is great gain, they are serving God, but not for Him but their own ego and pride, for money, importance fame and power.

These people use God's people as merchandise to achieve their own goals they are like the religious leaders of Jesus day the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who looked very religious on the outside, had large followings, knew the Scriptures very well, kept all the religious holy days etc., but it was all about fulfilling their own ambition and not about shepherding and caring for the Lord's people.

**NOTICE:** these so called godly people did great things for the Lord, they prophesied, cast out demons, and did many mighty works all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and yet he says he never knew them, how tragic, doing great religious acts means nothing to the Lord if is done for ones own glory and at the expense of shepherding and caring for the flock. This group is the foolish people Jesus speaks about in (verse 26 below).

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## MATTHEW 7:24-25

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### **The Wise Man who built his House on the Rock.**

- **Matthew 7:24-25:** "Everyone then who hears these words of mine (Jesus) and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

It is important to notice: "These words of mine" does not refer to doctrine, but everything Jesus has spoken about in the previous verses, there is no mention of doctrine, it all refers to fruit meaning behavior and actions. The focus is how those who want to be disciples of the Lord should live to be a good disciple. Knowing how Christ wants his disciples to live and treat other humans especially those who belong to him and doing it is God's will and what makes a person a wise disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Rock:** figuratively the rock is Christ, but in this context, it is not limited to Christ only, but embraces all the words he has spoken in this chapter and doing them, anyone who build their life on these is a very wise person in God's eyes.

**The Foolish Man who built his House on the Sand.**

- **Matthew 7:26-27:** And everyone who hears these words of mine (Jesus) and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

This is the same group of people Christ is talking about in (verse 23). The foolish person is the one who hears the words of the Lord, but does not do them, a good example of this are the religious leaders of Jesus day, the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes, they knew the Scripture far better than most, they taught them and kept all the religious ceremonially feasts and holy days no-doubt met together and read and studied the Scripture everyday. But this is not what Jesus is talking about in the context of this chapter, the words that we are to do that are in focus are words that relate to how Christs disciples should live and treat other humans, they are not about knowing the exact detail of doctrine, but lifestyle and knowing how we should live and about living contrary to it.

**NOTICE:** there is another great lesson in this story of the wise and foolish man, and that is that the same storm came to the wise man and the foolish man, being a disciple of Christ does not guarantee a trouble free life or even as some teach a prosperous one, but it does guarantee when a crisis comes in life you will not crumble under it as many do.

**Jesus taught with Authority.**

- **Matthew 7:28-29:** And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Authority carries the sense of ability, mastery and influence. Jesus was able to teach with absolute authority because he knew what was important to the heart of God, which next to loving God with all our heart, mind and strength is the second commandment which sums up the entire law and the heart of God regarding mankind and that is love your neighbour as yourself.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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