

LESSON 7

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, PART 2

TEACHING ON JUDGING

(MT. 7:1–6; LK. 6:37–42)

Jesus turned from a disciple's attitude toward material possessions to his attitude toward others. Matthew 7:1–5 condemns having a judgmental spirit. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 255–257.]

1. Does Jesus forbid judgment? Explain.
2. Is judgment always negative? Why or why not?
3. What important word in the Gospel Accounts appears for the first time in our study among these verses?

TEACHING ON PRAYER (MT. 7:7–11)

Before Jesus concluded the sermon (with instruction on obedience), He included two generic segments that would enable His listeners to meet the challenges He had placed before them. The contrasts in these passages are not stated, but they are implied. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 257–258.]

4. What might we gather from the fact that this section on prayer comes between two passages on human relationships?
5. What attitude does Jesus encourage us to take by instructing us to ask, seek, and knock?
6. Why should we feel confident in taking this attitude?

THE GOLDEN RULE (MT. 7:12; LK. 6:31)

The next section is only one verse. Although this thought could be included with the next part of the sermon, it is important enough to be listed alone. The verse enunciates the principle commonly called The Golden Rule. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 258–259.]

7. What often concerns us when dealing with others?
8. Why does Jesus say that this rule “is the Law and the Prophets” (Mt. 7:12b)?

THE TWO WAYS—AND FALSE PROPHETS
(MT. 7:13–23; LK. 6:43–45)

The concluding verses of the sermon include a warning against false teachers (Mt. 7:15–20), but primarily they are concerned with Christ’s disciples *living* the principles that He had taught. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 259–262.]

9. What sacrifices are involved in choosing the narrow way?
10. How can we get on the narrow way?
11. How can we *stay* on the narrow way?
12. Does what road we are on make a difference?
13. How does a false prophet go about deceiving?
14. How can we know a false prophet?
15. Do all false prophets know they are false prophets? Explain.
16. How is the word “know” often used in the Bible, and how is it used here?
17. What can we do to be sure that Jesus *knows* us?

CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION
(THE TWO BUILDERS)
(MT. 7:24–29; LK. 6:46–49)

The final words of the Sermon on the Mount stress the necessity of obeying Christ. Jesus closed with the now familiar illustration of the two builders: the wise man who built on the rock and the foolish man who built on the sand. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 263–265.]

18. Whom do the wise and foolish builders represent?
19. What are some of the “sands” we build our lives upon?
20. What must one do to be a “wise builder”?