

Concluding Considerations

Matthew 7:7-29

Matthew 8:1

Luke 6:31

Luke 6:43-49

Concluding Considerations

Texts:

Matthew 7:7-29,

7. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

9. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10. Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

11. If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will our Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

12. So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

13. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

15. Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

16. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

17. Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit,

18. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

19. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

21. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’

23. Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evil-doers!’

24. Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

26. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

27. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

28. When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

29. because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 8:1, When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

Luke 6:31, Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:43-49,

43. No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

44. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

45. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

46. Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

47. I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.

48. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

49. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

Commentary:

Matthew 7:7-11, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will our Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

I. Jesus spoke of the efficiency of prayer.

A. Ask, and it shall be given you.

B. Seek, and you shall find.

C. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

II. Jesus assured his disciples:

A. Everyone who asks will receive.

B. He who seeks will find.

C. To him who knocks the door will be opened.

D. It behooves us, in view of these promises, to be careful for what we pray.

E. Rachel prayed, “Give me children, or else I die.” (Genesis 30:1) God gave her children and she died. (Genesis 35:18)

F. Psalm 106:14, 15, He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.

III. God, our loving heavenly Father, will respond positively to the needs of his children and to their constructive requests.

A. Human fathers would not think of giving their sons a rock when they are hungry and ask for bread.

B. Fathers would certainly not give their hungry children serpents when they ask for fish.

C. **Note:** Hebrew literary form is revealed in this verse which call for a dual presentation of the same idea in different elements.

IV. If limited humans know how to give good gifts to their children God most certainly will give good things to those who ask him.

A. Notice the contrast between “know how to give” and “shall give.”

B. Humans do not always do what we know we should do!

Matthew 7:12, So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Luke 6:31, Do to others as you would have them do to you.

I. This Golden Rule states that the law and the prophets can be summarized in one statement: Treat others as you want others to treat you.

II. The world has hardly begun to apply this principle in human affairs. What a difference this one statement of Jesus would make on earth were it to be universally practiced!

Matthew 7:13, 14, Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

I. Life is a journey.

A. We come to a continual series of crossroads all of which lead to only two highways, one narrow and straightened and one wide and broad.

B. Far more people choose the easy wide/broad road, but this super highway leads to eternal destruction.

C. Few take the narrow more difficult road, but those who follow this road to its end find they have reached eternal life.

II. Truth is narrow and intolerant.

A. Arithmetic: $1 + 1 = 2$, not 2.0001.

B. Religion: The narrow road requires strict adherence to the will of the Lord.

Matthew 7:15, 16, Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

I. Hypocritical false prophets are roaming the world under the guise of faithful proclaimers of the gospel.

II. Our responsibility is to discern by their fruits, actions who are false and who are true prophets. We must be accurate in our discernment. Our soul's salvation depends on our making the right choices!

A. The broad way has its advocates.

B. Acts 20:29-31, I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

C. 2 Corinthians 11:1-3, I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

D. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come, until

the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

- E. 1 Timothy 4:1-5, The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

- F. 2 Timothy 3:1-8, But mark this, There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents,

ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth – men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

G.2 Timothy 4:1-5, In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

H.2 Peter 2:1-3, But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

- I. 2 Peter 3:1-7, Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

Matthew 7:17-20, Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit, A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Luke 6:43-45, No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

I. Jesus gives further guidelines by which sound, true and false prophets can be identified.

- A. By their fruits false and true prophets are to be discerned.

- B. Grapes do not have thorns. Figs do not have thistles. Good trees bear good fruit. Corrupt trees produce bad, corrupt fruit. These facts are elementary and immutable.
- C. Non-productive trees are destroyed and cast into the fire. False prophets also will be cast into eternal fire.
- D. The test is the fruit borne, not the level of intelligence, personal charm, influence, wealth, etc.
- E. Grapes do not grow on a bramble, thorn bush and faithful teachers and preachers do not grow from anything but God's truth.

II. The good man (the true prophet of God) brings good things out of the good treasures of his heart while the evil man (the false prophet) brings evil things out of the evil treasures of his heart.

III. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- A. The hearts of men determine character.
- B. Listen carefully and long enough and people's true nature will be revealed by what they say.

Matthew 7:21, Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Luke 6:46, Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

I. It takes more than religiously verbalizing loyalty to God to be saved. To be saved we must faithfully do the will of God.

II. False teachers have the outer appearances of righteousness and religiosity. Be not deceived.

III. False teachers even deceive themselves.

IV. Mere belief, a mere profession of faith, not even confession of faith in Christ will effect salvation if the will of God is not obeyed from the heart.

V. Why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?

A. Profession of faith without obedience (action) will not save!

B. Romans 10:10, “For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Confession is essential, but obedience is also required for salvation.

C. The will of God must be done!

1. 2 Peter 3:3, 4, First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

2. Matthew 15:9, They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.

Matthew 7:22, Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’

I. Many false teachers at the judgment will be surprised that they are among the lost and will ask:

A. Did we not prophecy by your, God's name?

B. Did we not cast out demon's by your, God's name?

C. Did we not do many mighty works by your, God's name?

II. The trouble was that these false teachers had performed these acts without God's authority or approval.

A. Many religious acts are performed as it were in the name of the Lord, but not by his authority, not by his command.

B. Many are they who follow this course of action and walk on the broad way toward destruction.

Matthew 7:23, Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evil-doers!'

I. Those who have acted without divine authority will be told that they are not among Christ's faithful and that they are to depart into outer darkness with other workers of iniquity.

II. Christ pictures himself as the judge at the great day of God Almighty and there he will pronounce punishment on false prophets.

III. We must give every effort not only to be religious, but to be right religiously with God!

Matthew 7:24-27, Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man

who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

Luke 6:47-49, I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

I. The key to eternal life is hearing and doing the will of God.

A. Such a person is a wise man.

B. He can be likened to a man building his house on a rock, on a solid foundation, on the will of God!

C. Matthew 28:20, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

D. John 12:48, There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

E. Hebrews 2:3, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

F. 2 John 9, Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

G. 1 Corinthians 4:6, Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.

H. Colossians 3:16, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

I. John 14:26, But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

J. John 16:13-15, But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

II. The wise man’s house withstood the storms of life and the judgment because it was built on the solid foundation of the will, word of God.

III. To stand in the time of storm we must hear the words of Christ and do them!

IV. The foolish man, the false prophet built his house on the sand, the opinions of men, and, in time of storm, the house was destroyed.

V. This again is Jewish literary form, one statement relating to another and saying the same thing, in this case one being positive and one negative.

Matthew 7:28, 29, When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

I. When the Sermon on the Mount had been completed,

A. all the people were amazed

B. because Jesus taught them with authority,

C. not as the scribes who based their statements on the understandings of others.

II. Jesus in this Sermon on the Mount evidenced authority surpassing that of:

A. scribes

B. Decalogue

C. Moses

D. Old Testament scriptures

E. All religious authorities of whatever nature and source.

III. No wonder the audience was amazed!

Matthew 8:1, When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

I. Jesus came down from the mountain and great multitudes followed him.

II. At this point in his ministry Jesus was very popular.

A. Did they understand the meanings and implications of what Jesus had said?

B. Evidently not because many of them later defected to Jesus' enemies.

Concluding Considerations

Questions

1. _____ and it will be _____ to you;
_____ and you will _____; _____
and the _____ will be _____ to you.

2. What principle sums up the Law and the Prophets? _____

3. _____ through the _____.
For _____ is the _____ and _____
is the _____ that leads to _____, and
_____ enter through it. But _____ is the
_____ and _____ is the _____ that
leads to _____, and only a _____ find it.

4. _____ for _____
_____. They come to you in _____'s
_____, but inwardly they are _____
_____.

5. A _____ cannot bear
_____, and a _____
_____ cannot bear _____.
By their _____ you will _____ them.

6. Not everyone who says to me, “_____,
_____,” will _____ the _____ of
_____, but only he who does the _____ of my
_____ who is in _____.

7. Everyone who _____ these _____ of mine and puts them into _____ is like a _____ who _____ his _____ on a _____.

8. _____ who hears these _____ of mine and does not put them into _____ is like a _____ who _____ his _____ on _____.

9. Why were the multitudes amazed at the teachings of Jesus? _____

10. How can you tell what kind of heart a person has? _____

11. It behooves us to be _____ for what we _____, _____ prayed, "Give me _____, or else I _____." God gave her _____ and she _____.

12. A _____ form calls for the _____ of the same _____ in corresponding expressions. Give an example of this technique. _____

13. What is the "Golden Rule?" _____

14. _____ is _____ and _____.
The _____ road requires _____
_____ to the _____ of the _____!

15. Who opposed Moses? _____

16. By what test can you determine whether a person is a true or false prophet? _____

17. Will prophesying, driving out demons and performing many miracles in the name of the Lord get us to heaven? _____
If not, why not? _____

18. The key to _____ is
_____ and _____ the _____ of
_____.

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:
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