

SERMON STUDY GUIDE



“Family Resemblance” - PREACHED ON MAY 25 & 26, 2024

READ

Read Matthew 5- 7:12. Read it each day, perhaps in a different translation each day (A great resource for looking at various translations is www.biblegateway.com).

DISCUSS

We’re in the last chapter of the Sermon on the Mount. How has the time spent studying these verses impacting you? What stood out to you as you continued to read last week’s passages? What treasures are you storing up? What did you notice about how you spent your money last week? Were you able to practice contentment?

STUDY

Matthew 7 takes a different focus than the other two chapters of the Sermon on the Mount. Having spent the last two chapters talking about a Christian individual’s character, influence and righteousness, Jesus now focuses on living in community. 7:1-12 covers a variety of relationships: our fellow believers, our heavenly Father, and the other communities around us. Let’s look at what Jesus says about relationships.

1. What commands does Jesus make in Matthew 7:1-12?
2. Verse 1-2 talk about judgement and measures. The idea of a measuring scale was used elsewhere for the day of judgement or divine retribution. The image occurs several times in Jewish sources and was a part of Egyptian mythology as well. Jesus’s audience would have been familiar with the image. Why does Jesus use this image to tell us not to judge others?
3. It can be easy for us to judge others. In the story of Job, he’s “comforted” (and judged!) by a few friends. Read Job 22 to see how they judge Job’s circumstances. Then read Job 42:7-9 when God speaks and answers Job’s cries. What did the lord have to say about whether or not Job’s judgmental friends were right or wrong? They were so busy seeing the speck in Job’s eyes that they missed the plank in their own!
4. The Jewish Talmud (writings) sates, “What is hateful to you, do not do to anyone else.: Likewise, Confucius told his followers, “Do not to others what you would not wish done to you.” How does the “Golden Rule” in verse 12 go beyond these commands? In what sense does this sum up the law and prophets that Jesus talks of earlier in the Sermon on the Mount?

PRACTICE

Pay attention to how judgement or gossip this week. Keep a tally of times you find yourself consciously or unconsciously speaking poorly about others. Are you doing unto others as you would want done to you? As a group, choose a day to practice a form of silence in your daily life. Instead of speaking first or quickly, take time to be quiet, think carefully, and then respond in as few words as possible.