

**"Relating to our Fellowman"**

**Part 5**

**Matthew 7:1-12**

**Introduction:** In our study of the Sermon on the Mount we are currently in Matthew 7 looking at a section where Jesus is teaching His disciples as well as you and me about human relationships. Everything we need to know about human relationships can be found within **Matthew 7:1-12**. I just want to remind you of something which I said when we first entered into this section and that is these verses must be viewed as a whole. We must be very careful about pulling any of these verses out of context.

Let us also remember that the entire way through the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is correcting the false teaching of the religious leaders of His day. Everything the scribes and the Pharisees were teaching was wrong.

They were wrong about self. They were wrong about the world. They were wrong about the Law of God. They were wrong about morality. They were wrong about religion. They were wrong about money. They were wrong about possessions. And they were definitely wrong about human relationships. They were a group of self righteous people who were unable to keep the Law but they were far too proud to admit it. Therefore they formulated their own set of standards out of their sinful hearts and they used their own standards to measure all who were not a part of their circle. They were extremely critical, judgmental and damning with their judgments.

This is the very point Jesus is addressing in **Matthew 7:1-12**. Now as we work our way through this Sermon on the Mount it may seem at times as though the Words of our Lord are rather sharp but there is one major point we must keep in mind: not only were His disciples listening to this sermon but the religious leaders were as well. So His words were not only designed to instruct His disciples but they were also designed for the purpose of helping the religious leaders come to the understanding that they were not fit for the Kingdom. You see they had to be made aware of their true sinful condition before they could respond in the right way. Following this passage He will give to them an invitation to as He tells them of the 2 paths in life.

### **Matthew 7:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*<sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

Now the section we are in can be divided into 2 parts concerning human relationships:

- 1. What not to do. - Matthew 7:1-6**
- 2. What to do. - Matthew 7:7-12**

In the first section Jesus has given to us many things to consider in our relationships with other people.

- 1. We are not to be critical and judgmental.**

### **Matthew 7:1a**

<sup>1</sup>Judge not,

Then Jesus gave 3 reasons why we are not to be critical and judgmental.

- a. We are not God
- b. We will be judged by God with the same judgment we show to others.
- c. It gives the wrong view of God and it gives the wrong view of a believer.

There are then 2 dangers that we must avoid as we begin to understand what our Lord is saying here:

**Danger #1 - We may want to step back and not get involved in a fellow believer's life because we don't want to be seen as critical.**

This danger brings us to the next 2 lessons:

**2. We are to FIRST deal with sin in our own lives.**

**Matthew 7:5a**

<sup>5</sup> *Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye;*

**3. We are THEN to help fellow believers get free from sin in their lives.**

**Matthew 7:5b**

*and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*

**Danger #2 - We will be hesitant to draw any lines of discrimination.**

This danger is addressed in the next lesson.

**4. We are to have discernment when it comes to sharing the precious Truths of God's Word.**

**Matthew 7:6**

*<sup>6</sup>Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.*

**II. What to do.**

**Part 1**

**Matthew 7:7-12**

**Notice Matthew 7:7-12**

Verse 12 is the key verse when it comes to human relationships.

**Matthew 7:12**

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

Notice what one person has said about this verse:

*"This truth settles a hundred different points. It prevents the necessity of laying down endless little rules for our conduct in specific cases."*

This verse applies to every area of our lives. There is so much in this verse that it goes far deeper than what we see on the surface. **This verse is based on a positive and I really want you to understand that so I want to take some time to help you to see what I mean.**

This verse is really the "Golden Rule" of human relationships. You have heard the "Golden Rule" it is, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". That is the very thought within this verse but again there is much more to see and it will take some deep thinking.

Now, all of our relationships can be summed up in 2 thoughts:

### **Matthew 22:36-40**

<sup>36</sup> *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*

<sup>37</sup> *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

<sup>38</sup> *This is the first and great commandment.*

<sup>39</sup> *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

<sup>40</sup> *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

All of our relationships can be placed in two categories:

1. **Vertical** - This is our relationship with our Heavenly Father.
2. **Horizontal** - This is our relationships with our fellow man.

The section we are in here in Matthew 7 can be summed up with the phrase, "Love thy neighbor as thyself".

However this section in Matthew takes us far deeper into what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I need to say something else here in connection with this section we are in; **Matthew 7:1-12** is the climax of the entire Sermon on the Mount. We are a family and in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus has been teaching us as to how we are to live as people of the Kingdom.

Since we are a family this section is so rich because it teaches us how we are to treat one another. Jesus has said more in these 12 verses than all the books written about human relationships could ever say. These verses show the depth of the wisdom of our Lord.

Let us now get deeper into the verse and I think you will find this very interesting and very enlightening.

Again I remind you that **Matthew 7:12** can be summed up in the phrase "*Love thy neighbor as thyself*". Now our love for other people really has two sides:

1. What we do not do to others.
2. What we do to others.

That, by the way, is exactly what we find in **Matthew 7:1-12**, "what not to do" and "what to do".

Let us now examine the verse closer.

### **Matthew 7:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

The first thing we need to understand is this is the **principle** of the section, which tells us "What **to** do to others". The **principle** of the first section was found in **Matthew 7:1 "Judge not"**. So our relationship to others can be wrapped up in 2 principles. There is a negative principle and a positive principle.

Now I want you to notice the first part of the verse.

The words "**all things**" here are very important. **Everything** we would desire others to do to us is exactly what we are to do to them. That

seems rather simple on the surface but there is something you may be missing.

We are to do to others what we would desire others to do to us EVEN if they do not do it or even if they never even consider doing it to us. We are to treat them like we would want them to treat us EVEN if they never do anything kind to you and me. Let me remind you that love does not judge nor does it criticize. True love does for others what we would have them to do for us even when we know it will never be done for us.

Now I told you this is a "positive" and I want to show you what I mean.

If we were to examine history and look close at human reasoning in the past and even today we would see that if man practices the "Golden Rule" (do unto others as you would have them do unto you) it is practiced out of **selfishness**. Let me give you some quotes from history and you will see what I mean. These will be quotes that were based on the "Golden Rule" of the society in which they were recorded.

- *"What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.  
What you do not want done to yourself, do not do."*

The idea behind this statement is that before you do anything to someone else you better be sure it is something which is ok for them to do to you. The motive is protecting self.

- *"What thou thyself hatest, to no man do."*

The idea here is the same. Don't do anything to someone that you don't desire to be done to you. If you hate something then you better not do

it to someone else because they might do it to you. The motive is self protection again.

- *"As you wish that no evil befall you, but to be a partaker of all good things [that is all about self], so you should act on the same principle toward your subjects and offenders."*

The same thought is in this statement also.

- *"What is hateful to yourself, do not to someone else."*

All of these are about "self". In other words the motive behind every one of these quotes is **not** to do good because we love people but the motive is to not do anything to someone that they might do to us in return. **The motive is to protect self**; the motive is not love for our fellow man. We are a selfish people and the way we often treat people is done out of a concern for "self" and not out of love.

Now let us notice the verse again:

### **Matthew 7:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should **do** to you, **do** ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

Jesus does **not** say, "Don't do something to someone that you don't want them to do to you." He says, "Do to them exactly what you would like for them to do for you." Do you see what is being said here? It is a positive and not a negative. The motive behind this verse is love for our fellowman. Let me show you so examples of what it may look like in our lives.

- a. It I am walking with the Lord and I am having a tough time keeping up with everyone else I want you to slow down a little and

be patient with me. Therefore, that is the very way I should treat you if you find yourself in that situation even if you would not do it for me.

- b. If I have a need and you have the resources to help me I desire that you will share with me the resources which you have. Therefore when I see you with a need I should share my resources with you even if you would never share your resources with me.
- c. If I am struggling with a weakness and I really desire to gain victory then I want you to be merciful and patient with me. Therefore I should be merciful and patient with you if you are in that situation even if there is no mercy from you to me.
- d. If I fall to sin and I repent of that sin I want you to offer your forgiveness to me. Therefore, I should do the same for you even if you would never show forgiveness to me in that circumstance.
- e. If I am on a path of sin and I refuse to heed sound advice I want you to do whatever you have to do to keep me from going so far that I will dishonor the name of my Lord or be scarred for the rest of my life. Therefore, if you find yourself on that path then I should do the same for you.

### **Proverbs 27:6a**

*<sup>6a</sup> Faithful are the wounds of a friend;*

These are just a few examples but you can truly see how this verse applies to every area of our lives.

**Conclusion:**

Now this cannot be done by unsaved people. This can only be practiced by saved people who are controlled by the Holy Spirit because man is selfish and he will always seek what is best for himself and not for his fellowman.

**Philippians 2:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup> But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.*

*<sup>20</sup> For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

**For all seek their own**, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

**Romans 3:12b**

*there is none that doeth good, no, not one:*

**Matthew 7:12** can never be carried out unless we are controlled by the Spirit of God. The bottom line is this; we cannot practice this principle in our own strength so we need the Spirit of God to give to us the power to live this verse.

This is the very standard by which we should relate to our fellowman and especially to fellow believers.