

Assignments on Matthew 7

Please read Matthew 7 (note parallels in other accounts) and answer these questions.

1. List other passages showing whether or not Jesus and His disciples told people they were wrong. Even in the context of Matthew 7, did Jesus say people were wrong? Explain.
2. Are there different kinds of judging? Explain. Note John 7:24.
3. List some kinds of judging that Jesus rebukes in Matthew 7:1-5.

4. **Case Study:** Many people say “judge not” means we must not tell other people (especially religious people) that they have done wrong. How would you respond?

5. Explain the illustration of the plank and the speck (the beam and the mote – 7:3,4). How does this help explain the meaning of hypocrisy? (Think: In what sense is it true that we will be judged according to the judgment we give – 7:2?)

6. **Application:** Give examples in which people might do what Jesus here describes.

7. How did Jesus say we should avoid the error of judging others for what we commit – 7:5? Did Jesus say to leave the speck or mote in the brother’s eye? What can we learn?

8. What should we not do according to 7:6? Why not? Why would these animals so act?

9. What lesson should we learn about teaching others? List other similar passages.

10. **Application:** How can we know when people are no longer worthy of our teaching efforts, so we should move on? Does this involve making judgments (compare verses 1-5)?

11. What promise does Jesus make in 7:7,8? What application does this have to prayer?

12. List other similar passages about God's promises to answer prayer.

13. How does Jesus illustrate God's answers to prayer – 7:9-11? What can we learn?

14. What principle does Jesus give in 7:12 to guide our treatment of others? List other passages elsewhere that relate to this teaching.

15. **Application:** How does Jesus' teaching in 7:12 differ from how people often act?

16. What two ways or paths does Jesus describe in 7:13,14, and where do they lead?

17. **Application:** What lessons can we learn from the fact there are only two paths and only two destinations? List other passages about these two destinations.

18. What does Jesus say about the number of people on each of these paths? List other passages describing the relative number of people who are or are not pleasing to God.

19. **Case Study:** People often justify a practice or determine whether or not it is acceptable by the number of people who accept it. How would you respond to such reasoning?

20. **Application:** What lessons can we learn from the fact the one way is "narrow" (or "strait") compared to the other that is broad? List other passages that teach similarly.

21. What danger does Jesus describe in 7:15? List other passages about this danger.

22. What does Jesus teach about the character of false teachers? List other passages that discuss the deceitful nature of false teachers and false teaching.

23. **Special Assignment:** How does the discussion of false teachers relate to the teaching about “judging” (verses 1-5) and about the narrow and broad ways (verses 13,14)?

24. What illustration does Jesus use to teach us how to determine whether or not a person is a false teacher – 7:16-20? List other similar passages.

25. **Application:** What is the fruit of a false teacher? Explain the application of Jesus’ teaching. Note the significance of verses 21-28.

26. **Case Study:** Some religions claim they are pleasing to God because their “fruit” is they are large or growing fast. Is that the fruit Jesus referred to here? Proof?

27. What must we do to enter the kingdom of heaven – 7:21? What is not sufficient to enter the kingdom of heaven? (Think: How does this relate to 7:13,14?)

28. List other passages that show the importance of obedience to receive eternal life.

29. **Case Study:** Many people expect to be saved without obedience because they believe in Jesus or “accept Jesus as Lord.” How would you respond in light of the context?

30. How will many people respond to Jesus regarding their service to Him – 7:22,23? How will Jesus respond to them? What was the real reason why they were rejected?

31. What did Jesus say about the number of people who will be rejected in 7:22,23? Is this a rare, unusual problem?

32. **Application:** Consider carefully and make a list of various kinds of people who believe they are acceptable before God but who may be mistaken or misled.

33. In the illustration of the two builders (7:24-27), what was the physical difference between the two?

34. In Jesus' spiritual application, how were the two men alike? How were they different?

35. What were the spiritual consequences to the illustration? I.e., what will happen to people's houses spiritually?

36. **Application:** Give examples of how people today may be guilty of building spiritually on the sand.

37. How did the people view Jesus' teaching – 7:28,29? What specifically impressed them?

38. Identify some specific ways that Jesus' teaching differed from that of the scribes.

39. Give examples from the Sermon on the Mount that illustrate the authority of Jesus' teaching? What does this teach us about who Jesus is?