

# MATTHEW 7 vs 1

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Dr. John Stott, rector of All Souls, London... said, Here in this chapter Jesus describes seven different types of relationships we'll find ourselves having with one another.

And in this first, important relationship... with our brother, Jesus says, **Do not judge** ...but He is not asking us to suspend our common sense.



**<sup>1</sup> Do not judge, that you are not judged** / Yet before we rush to sit in judgment over another... to claim a competence and authority to sit in judgment over my brother, or even my fellow-man... John Stott adds, But to do that... is to cast them and me in the wrong roll. For since when have they been my servants? Since when are they responsible to me? And Dr. Stott quotes Paul in Romans 14, applying this teaching. Paul says, Who are you who judges another man's servant? To his own master... he stands or falls. Yes, he will be held up, for the Lord... is able to make him stand.

**<sup>2</sup> For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged:**

**and how you measure, it will be measured to you** / and have you noticed how we measure things? Always exaggerating everybody else's fault, while minimizing and excusing our own; we always cut the pie to benefit ourselves.

The command to **not Judge**, is not to be blind. It is to be generous. Jesus said in the way we forgive others, our heavenly Father will forgive us.

He continues with the next relationship...

**<sup>3</sup> And why behold that little speck that is in your brother's eye** / why do you paying attention to that spot; Jesus is addressing those who love to quote: **nobody is perfect**... but when they say that you get the impression, if you had time, they could point out every one's imperfection...well everybody but theirs,

**but do not consider the log, that is in your own eye?**

**<sup>4</sup> Or how do you say to your brother, let me pull out the speck from your eye; and behold, a log** / the size of a telephone pole, **is in your own eye?**

**<sup>5</sup> You hypocrite** / no different than a pharisee, **first throw out the log from your eye; and then you will see clearly to cast out the speck of dust... from your brother's eye** / Jesus says, take care of your own issues.

Dump the judging! Dump the hypocrisy.

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**6 Never give what is holy to the dogs** / you know, some dogs would love to scavenge through the city dump, if you let them. So, what is Jesus saying? Some people will take of whiff of the word of God, like smelling an old shoe, and then run along to smell a dog turd, or another dog's butt... and then lick your face, and afterward, stumble on its own vomit and lick it up! Not much discrimination there!

**Never think to give what is holy to the dogs** / they won't know what to do with it.

Jesus says...

**Do not cast all your pearls before swine** / because pigs do not know what to do with pearls.

**lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and tear you to bits** / **Proverbs 9** says: [Don't reprove a mocker; or you might bring yourself insult and shame](#); rather reprove a wise man, he will love you. There is no need to argue with anyone about God's gift of salvation.

In his book, **Natural Law in the Spiritual World**, Henry Drummond wrote that plant life does not know about biological, animal life; and animals do not know about human, mortal life; and mortals do not know about spiritual life. Drummond says: that which is mineral is mineral, one classification; that which is flesh, another; and that which is spirit, yet another... and quotes John: he who has the Son, has life; he who has not the Son of God, has not life. Paul said, all flesh is not the same, all glory is not the same. So, believe people if they say, I don't understand when you talk about spiritual things. They are telling the truth.

If someone does not want to receive the Gospel, shake the dust off your feet... and move on!

Next Jesus addresses our relationship to God our Father as His child. Jesus already said, Don't pray with vain repetitions or hypocritically to be seen of men. He also said, Get our Father who is in heaven in view.

**7 Ask / continue asking, and it will be given to you;**

**seek / continue seeking, and you will find;**

**knock / continue knocking, and it will be opened to you** ...Jesus says, His students are persistent. Remember: these promises are not unconditional. I am not God; HE is not my servant! Nonetheless, Jesus unapologetically continues...

**8 For everyone who continues asking, receives; and he who continues seeking, finds; and to him who continues knocking, it is opened.**

Jesus elaborates on this relationship...

**9 What man is there among you, who when his son asks for bread, will he give him a stone?**

**10 Or who will ask for a fish, and he gives a serpent?** / a poisonous snake? Who would do that?

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**<sup>11</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him?** / but Jesus isn't merely talking about the little things of life. The Holy Spirit is the good our Father wants to give to them who ask.

Jesus continues with another relationship...

**<sup>12</sup> All things whatever you would want men to do to you, do so to them** / to the Galatians, Paul says, in love serve one another...

**for this is the law and the prophets** / this is what the law and the prophets pointed to when they wrote of the Messiah who was always about His Father's business – doing what pleases His Father.

Next, Jesus addresses those journeying in one of only two ways of life...

 **<sup>13</sup> Enter at the strait gate**

**for spacious is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there are who enter in there** / enter at the thin, narrow door; / very broad as spacious as the Sahara Desert... it is a wide enough for everything you want to think or do!:

**<sup>14</sup> How thin is the gate, and narrowing the way** / it's a verb,

**that leads to life eternal,**

**and few there are who find it** / few care to look; so, few find the way, God's way it is narrowing. He only reveals it; with no room for opinion... except His. But it's spacious enough for us to be obedient.

So, there is a broad way with many; and a narrowing way... His way; He is the way; with fewer and fewer who find it... as the years roll on. That is the choice; **there is no other way.**

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