

**A Balanced Lifestyle**  
**Matthew 7**  
**Sermon on the Mount – Part 4**

**I. Righteous Discernment – 7:1-6**

1. Beware of a critical spirit – 1-2  
Don't be quick to judge others  
You may not have all of the facts  
You will be judged in the same way  
Galatians 6:1 gives a good standard  
Not to condemn but seeking to restore
2. Make sure you are seeing clearly – 3-5  
Discipline yourself if you are to help others
3. Discernment to know when to help – 6  
Some will not accept help – may attack

**II. Reliance upon God – 7:7-11**

1. Live in dependence upon God – 7-8  
We need His wisdom and strength  
Prayer is our very lifeline  
Trust God to lead – give discernment
2. Your Heavenly Father will answer – 9-11  
He will give us what we need  
He will guide us & give good balance

**III. Rule to Live By – 7:12**

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated  
Concise principle to help maintain balance
2. What Scripture says about relationships  
Law says “Love your neighbor as yourself”  
Jesus defines “neighbor” in Good Samaritan  
This principle sums it all up for us

**IV. Responsible Decisions – 7:13-14**

1. Choose the right path  
There is a wide gate & a broad path  
There is also a narrow gate & a narrow path
2. Don't follow the crowd  
Many are on the broad path  
Few are on the narrow way
3. Eternal implication of choice  
Wide path leads to destruction  
Narrow path leads to eternal life  
The end of the road is what is important

**V. Reject what is False – 7:15-20**

1. False prophets try to influence us – 15  
We need good discernment
2. They will appear like God's sheep – 15  
In reality they are fierce wolves
3. Judge them by what they produce – 16-20

Good trees produce good fruit  
True teachers will promote godliness

**VI. Reality of Faith – 7:21-23**

1. More than verbal profession – 21  
Not just acknowledging Jesus is Lord  
A life that is lived by God's will
2. More than religious activity – 22  
Prophesying in Jesus name  
Doing miracles in Jesus name
3. Jesus disowns empty faith – 23  
He says “I never knew you”
4. Genuine transforms one's life  
Living out what we claim to believe

**VII. Response to God's Word – 7:24-29**

1. Wisdom builds on what is heard – 24-25  
Like a man who builds his house on a rock  
When the storms come his house stands
2. Fool builds on shifting sand – 26-27  
So is one who doesn't act on what he hears  
Storms of life bring devastation
3. People amazed at His teaching – 28-29  
He taught with authority unlike other teachers  
All the more reason to live-out what He says