

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

Good trees produce good fruit
True teachers will promote godliness

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

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