



At the beginning of Matthew 7, Jesus turns the attention of his disciples to relationships. How do we relate to one another? How can we get along with each other? And what about when the people around us are tough to get along with? What do we need to see clearly, especially about ourselves? Let's listen...

" \_\_\_\_\_ not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the \_\_\_\_\_ in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (7:1-5)

In Matthew 7:6, we hear an interesting warning that probably makes us scratch our heads a little as to what Jesus means...

"Do not give dogs what is \_\_\_\_\_, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you."

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus turns our attention to our Father who is in heaven. How can we relate to him? Can we depend on him? How should we think of him?

" \_\_\_\_\_, and it will be given to you; \_\_\_\_\_, and you will find; \_\_\_\_\_, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If \_\_\_\_\_ then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your \_\_\_\_\_ who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (7:7-11)

Finally, in Matthew 7:12, Jesus gives us a beautiful summary of the approach his disciples ought to take with relationships and the ways we interact with and treat each other.

"So whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ that others would do to you, do also to \_\_\_\_\_, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

What a way to summarize the message of the Old Testament Scriptures! For a long time, it's been referred to as "the Golden Rule." Jesus has challenged us, hasn't he? Let's dig in...



# For Class & Family Discussion:

1. "Judge not, that you be not judged." Lots of people know that's somewhere in the Bible, but what did Jesus mean? Just a few verses later, he calls his disciples not to "give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs" (7:6). In Matthew 7:15, he tells his disciples to "Beware of false prophets." In John 7:24 he said, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." So what is he warning us about in Matthew 7:1-5?
2. Why do you think it's always easier to see "the speck" in someone else's eye than it is to notice "the log" that is in your own eye?
3. Is Jesus encouraging us to have a "live-and-let-live" approach, where we just go with the flow of everybody's life choices? If not, why not? According to 7:5, what needs to happen?
4. Matthew 7:6 is a challenging statement. What do you think Jesus meant by it?
5. In Matthew 7:11, the Son of God assures us, "your Father who is in heaven" knows how to give good things to those who ask him. So how should we think of this invitation to "Ask... seek... knock" in 7:7-8? In your own words, what is God looking for, and why?
6. For many generations, disciples of Jesus have referred to Matthew 7:12 as "the Golden Rule." Why? Let's make it as practical as we can: where might we have opportunities to practice this rule this week?