

The Choices of the Committed

Chapter 12

Audio lesson: New Testament 12



Objective: To further explore the practical applications of the Sermon on the Mount and to understand the difference between true and false discipleship.



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

—Matthew 7:7-8

“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

—Matthew 7:12

In Matthew 7, Jesus continues to focus on what it means to look in, look up, and look around. He teaches His disciples not to judge others; to ask, seek, and knock on the doors of God’s goodness, expecting Him to answer their prayers; to treat other people according to how they want to be treated; and to enter the Kingdom of Heaven in the only way He has taught—through Him.

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a picture of two kinds of disciples: those who are like a house built on the rock, and those who are like a house built on sand. Obeying His teaching is like building on solid rock, and not obeying His teaching is like building on sand. Both have heard His words, but foolish ones never apply what they have learned. Those who apply His teaching are wise. Only one kind of life can withstand the storms of life and live forever in His kingdom.



1. **True** or false? When we value the right things and really understand that God takes care of us, we have no reason to worry.
2. True or **false**? Our real values are not reflected in our daily lives.
3. True or **false**? God tells us that we are to find out what is wrong with other people and tell them about it.
4. **True** or false? God wants us to be able to see our own faults clearly.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. What did Jesus mean when He said not to judge others?
 - a. We can never say for sure what is right and wrong.
 - b. We should approve of everyone's behavior.
 - c. We should not be hypocrites who criticize other people.**
 - d. Christians should not become attorneys or judges or serve on juries.
6. Which of the following are good indicators of our spiritual values? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. The faith of our ancestors
 - b. The culture we live in
 - c. How we spend our money**
 - d. What we think about all day**
 - e. The language we speak
 - f. How we spend our time**
 - g. How healthy we are
 - h. How we use our talents and skills**
 - i. The decisions we make**
 - j. How wealthy we are
 - k. Our desires and ambitions**
 - l. Where we were born
7. What does Jesus promise to those who look to God in prayer?
 - a. He might not hear them.
 - b. He might decide to give them a bad gift instead of a good one.
 - c. He will eventually get tired of answering them.
 - d. He will always answer their prayers in a good way.**
8. What is the "golden rule"?
 - a. Treat other people the way you want to be treated.**
 - b. Treat other people the way they have treated you.
 - c. Let people treat you as badly as they want to.
 - d. Do not get angry, just get revenge.

9. How does Jesus distinguish between fake and genuine disciples?
- a. Are they part of the many or part of the few
 - b. Are they true or are they false
 - c. Are they those who say or those who do
 - d. All of the above**
10. How does Jesus describe those who are part of His solution? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. They are doers, not just talkers.**
 - b. They are committed to ask, seek, and knock.**
 - c. They are learning His values.**
 - d. They act very holy and say beautiful prayers.
11. What kind of person enters into the kingdom of heaven?
- a. Those who are very active in the church
 - b. Those who say, “Lord, Lord”
 - c. Those who never sin again
 - d. Those who truly trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord**
12. Which of the following is most clearly a true disciple of Jesus?
- a. One who can cast out demons
 - b. One who builds his house on a rock
 - c. One who hears Jesus’ words and obeys them**
 - d. One who can perform miracles in Jesus’ name



In the past, have you been more like a house built on sand or a house built on rock? How do you know? What kind of disciple would you like to be? Why?



Thank God for His invitation into His kingdom and for His promise to make you the kind of person who can represent Him and be part of His solution. Ask Him to continue to teach you and to give you a loving and willing heart to trust and obey.



Going Deeper

1. How are the first five verses of Matthew chapter 7 an exhortation to make the commitment to look in? _____

2. In these same verses, what was Jesus trying to get the hypocritical person to think about with His two questions that began with “Why?” and “How?” _____

3. In what ways was Jesus trying to get the disciple to make the commitment to look up in His exhortations in verses 7 through 11 in chapter 7? _____

4. In what ways did the Golden Rule (verse 12) challenge the disciple to make the commitment to look around? _____

5. In the invitation of Jesus, which begins at verse 13, how was He essentially challenging those who attended His teaching on the mountaintop with the question, “What kind of solution or disciple are you going to be?” and what were the three possibilities He profiled for them?

6. What was the essence of the metaphor of the two houses being hit by storms, and how did it apply to those who say and those who do? _____

7. Are you part of the solution or part of the problem, part of His answer or just another question mark? If you are a solution and an answer of Jesus, what kind of solution and answer are you?
