

The 'Me-First' Club

Chapter 22

Audio lesson: Sermon on the Mount 22



Objective: To commit to the teachings of Jesus in practice, and to understand the difference between those who are true disciples and those who are not. (Text: Matthew 6:19-34; 7:1-6)



“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

—Matthew 7:1-2

Jesus taught His disciples to look inward and realize that His eight beatitudes would make them the salt and light the world needs. He also taught them to look around, apply those blessed attitudes to their relationships, and then to look upward and receive from God the spiritual disciplines and values they needed to continue being fruitful disciples.

The last part of the Sermon on the Mount is a challenge: “What are you going to do about what you know?” Jesus always emphasized practical application; what the disciple really believes, the disciple does. So He begins chapter 7 with three exhortations to make His sermon a practical reality in their lives.

Disciples of Jesus should never be hypercritical. Our tendency is to focus on the problems of other people rather than our own issues. Jesus asks two profound questions: “Why are you doing this?” and, “How can you possibly be successful?” The thrust of this teaching is that disciples of Jesus must deal with their personal problems before they can help others with theirs.



1. True or false? In order for us to share the values of the kingdom with the world, we must have them ourselves.

2. True or false? All of the questions Jesus asked in the Sermon on the Mount were directed at his critics and opponents.
3. True or false? When Jesus said not to judge, He was really saying that we should never have an opinion about other people.
4. True or false? In this passage, Jesus was really saying that we should have a “me first” approach to personal problems.

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

5. Which of the following is *not* one of the questions Jesus asked His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount?
 - a. What are your attitudes?
 - b. What are your anxieties?
 - c. How religious and holy are you?
 - d. Where is your heart?
6. How are values best communicated from one person to another?
 - a. By lecturing
 - b. By forcing people to obey
 - c. By observation
 - d. By reading about them
7. What should we do first if we notice someone else living the wrong way or having the wrong attitudes?
 - a. Look inward at ourselves
 - b. Tell the person to stop sinning
 - c. Tell other people how bad that person is
 - d. Ignore the problem completely
8. What does Jesus say about people who judge others while ignoring their own problems?
 - a. They are understandably doing what is natural.
 - b. They are hypocrites.
 - c. They truly understand the Law.
 - d. They have already become good enough to judge others.
9. When Jesus tells us not to cast our pearls before swine, what does He really mean?
 - a. Sharing the good news with sinners is a waste of time.
 - b. Some people are not good enough to be saved.
 - c. The blessed attitudes are a holy secret, not to be disclosed to everyone.
 - d. We are to have discernment when dealing with enemies and uninterested hearers.



In what ways are you most likely to judge other people? What issues in your own life do you think God wants you to deal with first?



Thank God that He looks at us with mercy and offers us forgiveness. Ask Him to give you the same attitude toward other people that He has toward you.



Going Deeper

1. Why must one be born again to understand the spiritual message Jesus gave Nicodemus in John chapter 3? _____

2. Have you encountered God in a way that made you realize that He is God and He is King? If so, what difference did it make? _____

3. In what ways are you most likely to judge people? _____

4. What issues in your own life do you think God wants you to deal with first? _____

5. When Jesus tells us not to cast our pearls before the swine, what does He really mean? _____

6. Discuss the biblical definition of the word “confession.” _____

7. Describe a time when you have ever cast your pearls before the swine. _____

8. Why do we have to “look in” before we can be of help to others? _____
