

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

May 1, 2019

Rev. Philip Amerson

Judging Others

7 “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 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.

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

Ask, and It Will Be Given

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few

Summing Up: Straight Forward and Simple

- I. **Two Big Ideas: Makarios and Teleios**
 - a. Makarios – Blessedness (Beatitudes)
 - b. Teleios or Wholeness Throughout Matthew
 - c. Wholeheartedness, Virtue and Human Flourishing (Jonathan Pennington, *The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing*, pp. 74-85)
 - d. Bringing together what we say and what we do. “Be Teleios even as your heavenly father is teleios.”
- II. **Remembering and Practicing the Jesus Prayer**
 - a. The Sermon Pyramid. (See Below)
 - b. In what ways are these teaching an extension of the Lord’s Prayer
 - c. Thinking more on the Golden Rule – what hints are there in the Lord’s prayer. Does Jesus offer something further (Matthew 25:35). Perhaps the “rule” is only a compass point or a beginning?
- III. **Matthew 7:1-12, Other Directions: Judging, Asking, Doing**
 - a. **From *Traditional Righteousness* past *Vicious Cycle* to *Transformative Initiative*.**
 - i. Comprehensive Principle
 - ii. Self-Realization

- iii. Final Warning Against Double Mindedness and Spiritual Unreality (E. Stanley Jones, *The Christ of the Mount*, p. 256)

b. Judging 7: 1-6

- i. Transformative Initiatives:
 - 1. Measure for Measure
 - 2. Not Retribution (eye for an eye)
 - 3. Specks and Logs

- ii. Pearls and swine

c. Asking and Receiving 7:7-11

- i. Ask, Seek, Knock
- ii. Good gifts to your children

d. Golden Rule 7:12-13

- i. Do unto others
- ii. Enter by the narrow gate.
- iii. “The usual interpretation of this verse is that the gate into heaven is very narrow and few are going to get in. But Jesus says nothing about heaven. He says that the way to find life is by the narrow gate. It brings back the simple principle we have been enunciating again and again: the way of self-realization is by way of self-renunciation.”
(E. Stanley Jones, *The Christ of the Mount*, p. 260).

IV. Notes for Inductive Study Approach:

1. See things whole—get a bird’s eye view, before a worm’s eye view.
2. Questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
3. Comparisons or Contrasts
4. Recurrence/repetition
5. General and Particular
6. Interrogations
7. Conclusion and/or Climax

V. Schedule, Spring 2019 Bible Study Hour:

- May 1 Summing Up: Straight Forward and Simple (7:1-12)
- May 8 Summing Up: Being and Doing (7:13-27)
- May 15 Summing Up: Our Response (7: 28-29)

Pennington – Sermon Pyramid:

Lord’s Prayer	
God’s Righteousness & Piety	God’s Righteousness & Wealth
God’s Righteousness & Torah	God’s Righteousness & Outside Relations
Beatitudes	Two Ways.