

## Lesson 12: The Sermon on the Mount (III)

Objective: To know that to practice daily, the will of our heavenly Father as taught in His Word, is the mark of the true Christian.

Background: The Sermon on the Mount was delivered very likely during the second year of Jesus' public ministry which is believed to have lasted more than 3 years. Much of Jesus' attention hereafter, is given primarily to the training of the twelve disciples, so that they may carry on the work after His departure.

Instruction: Prayerfully read over Matthew 7 until you have mastered its content.

Let's Think: Imagine you were one of the disciples listening to Jesus.

In chapter 7, Jesus gives admonitions and warnings. He uses a series of *contrasts* to bring the truths home.

1. Is Jesus forbidding "judgment" or "judgmental (critical) attitudes" in Mt 7:1-5? Does he forbid evaluation or discernment in the light of Mt 7:6- 7 and 15-20? Explain.
2. How would you approach a fellow brother who needs correction in the light of Mt 7:1-5 & Romans 14:10-12? What would judgmental attitudes do to you? and to others? Explain.
3. Does the way of Jesus belong to the "wide" or "narrow" gate/way in the light of Matthew chapters 5-7? Give examples from chapters 5-7 to substantiate your answer. What does Jesus urge people to choose? Why? If you choose Jesus' way, how would it affect your life? (Mt7:13-14) Be specific.
4. Where would the leaders fit the description of Mt 7: 15-16 be more likely be found: in the wide or narrow gate/way? Why? Is it the *profession of faith* or the *Christian character and life* that really matter in the end? Why?
5. Does Mt 7:21-23 in any way relate to Mt 7:15-20? Explain. Does the ability to heal or to carry on a successful ministry necessarily mean that the person rightly pertains to Jesus? What is the bottom line? Explain. How would your Christian service fare if this were "the day"?
6. To what does Jesus compare the one who *practices* his Word (practices His Lordship) and the one who *does not*? What difference does it make in character and life? (Mt 7:24-27). Which group do you belong to?
7. Does His Word have authority in your life? If so, how? (Mt 7:28-29).

For prayer and meditation: Am I calling Him "Lord," and yet consciously disobeying His will? Am I willing to put it right today?

Let's Remember: Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 1:21).