

Matthew 7:1-12

As you read these twelve verses, consider the two sections where we are commanded to “not judge” (the negative) – 7:1-6, and where prayer is encouraged (the positive) – 7:7-11. And note the final verse here, commonly considered as “The Golden Rule.”

Parallels:

Matt. 7:1-5/Mark 4:24/Luke 6:37-38, 41-42

Matt. 7:6 (pearls before swine)/Luke 6:39 (blind guiding the blind, both fall into the pit)

Matt. 7:11/Luke 11:9-13

Matt. 7:12/Luke 6:31

Contrasts:

Matthew	Mark	Luke
7:1 so that you <u>may</u> not		6:37 and you <u>will</u> not
-		6:37 do not condemn and you will not be condemned.
7:2 the measure you have given will be the measure you get	4:24 the measure you use will be measured and added to you	6:38 Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.
7:4 Let me take...		6:42 <u>Friend</u> , let me take...
7:6 Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs , or they will trample them under their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces.		6:38 He also told them a parable: "Can the blind guide the blind? Won't they both fall into a pit?"
7:9-10 Bread: Stone/ Fish: Snake		11:11-12 Fish: Snake/ Egg: Scorpion
7:11 Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him.		11:13 heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

Matthew 7:1-12 (CSB)

Action and Reaction: Judgement

1 *"Do not judge, so that you won't be judged.*

2 *For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

Observation and Speech

3 *Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye?*

4 *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, there's a log in your eye?*

The correct label

5 *Hypocrite! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

The contrast to judgment: Naivety

6 *Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them with their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces*

Prayer encouraged

7 *"Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.*

8 *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*

9 *What man among 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 snake?*

* **Bread** and **fish** were the staple foods of the region where Christ was delivering this sermon

11 *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

The Golden Rule

12 *Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them - this is the Law and the Prophets.*

* The Law and the Prophets are seen here in these two passages:

Deuteronomy 6:5

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Leviticus 19:18

Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

Discernment is the bridge between v. 5 (you will see clearly), and v. 6 (pearls, or the message of the Kingdom of God). If these pearls are delivered without discernment, the result will be disaster (see the contrasts chart above for the parallels of Matt. 7:6, and Luke 6:38). The message of the Kingdom of God is a volatile truth that may polarize those who hear it.

Compare Titus 3:4-7 (pearls), 3:8 (discernfully given), 3:9-11 (undeservingly cast before swine):

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

5 He saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

6 He poured out His Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior

7 so that, having been justified by His grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

8 This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone.

9 But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning. 11 For you know that such a person has gone astray and is sinning; he is self-condemned.

Greek words from this passage for reflection:

Look at the context of the verses and consider the full meaning of these words.

Matthew 7:5 – you will see clearly, διαβλέψεις, dianlepseis, (phonetic: dee-ab-leps-ais), to look through, to see clearly. (Strong's 1227) (*consider discernment*)

Matthew 7:5– to take out, ἐκβαλεῖν, ekballein, (phonetic: ek-bal'-lay-in), to cast out. (Strong's 1544)

Matthew 7:5– pearls, μαργαρίτας, margaritas, (phonetic: mar-gar-ee'-tass), pearls. (Strong's 3135)

Matthew 7:5 – trample, καταπατήσουσιν, katapatesousin, (phonetic: kat-ap-at-eh'-soo-sin), trample down, trample under foot, trodden under foot. (Strong's 2662)

Matthew 7:10 – fish, ἰχθύν, ichthun, (phonetic: ikh-thoon), fish. (Strong's 2486)

Of ἰχθύς:

= Greek word
for "Fish"

Ἰησοῦς = Jesus Χριστός = Christ Θεός = God
Υἱός = Son Σωτήρ = Savior

GREEK TO ENGLISH	I	X	Θ	Υ	Σ	TRANSLITERATION
	i	ch	th	u	s	

**"Jesus Christ,
God's Son,
Savior"**

This passage is given in contrast to the scribes and Pharisees. Compare it to the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:11-14). These words have been used incorrectly to declare that believers in Christ should never evaluate or criticize anyone for anything. Such absolutes are inconsistent with God's law. This argument is a simplistic interpretation to deliver a convenient excuse to avoid confrontation. We cannot eliminate correct teaching "for the sake of unity." Only right doctrine, biblical doctrine, can teach true holiness, unity, and fellowship. Spiritual and moral reformation have occurred

throughout church history and ancient Israel through conflict and confrontation of incorrect doctrine and religious practices. Men and women who will make a difference in the face of false religion, must be of strong doctrine, conviction, and principle.

This passage once again highlights the distinction between true and false religion.

Be bold. Be true. Be sound of judgment and discernment. Respond with conviction and confidence to things that are false, and which detract from God's correct instruction – but remember the words from Matthew (7:1-12), and 1 Peter 3:15-17, as you prayerfully reflect God's glory.

1 Peter 3:15-17:

15 but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 16 Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.