

**Matthew 7: Discernment is Making Use of Your God-given Common Sense**

**Instructions:** As you read the guide and bible, write down any questions you come across. Try to find the answer on your own, but if you can't or do not know where to look, post your questions in the comments section of this course. If you do find the answers, post your question and answers in the discussion. Chances are someone else had the same questions and you can help them out.

**Summary:**

We will go through Yeshua teachings very in depth as this is our whole purpose for studying the word, to understand his teachings and follow them.

Verse	Summary
1-5	Yeshua continues his teachings to the disciples. He says do not judge others so that you are not judged. Whatever you judge others by, you will be judged by. So, make sure that you are clean in that area, before you judge someone else. He teaches that it is hypocritical to judge others for the very things we are still struggling to overcome.
6	Do not give what is holy to those that are not holy or not Israel, because it will be misused and wasted. (Refer to Mat 15:26)
7-8	Ask and God will give it to you, search diligently and you will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock.
9	Your Father will not give you any less than you ask him for. Yeshua says if man, being evil, knows how to give gifts to his own children, you Father will, all the more, give you good things when you ask for them.
12	Treat people like you want them to treat you, rather than like they treat you.
13-14	The way that leads to destruction is wide and many will go into destruction, but the way that leads to Life is narrow and few will find it.
15-16	Beware of false prophets who appear good outwardly, but are evil inwardly. You will know them by their actions and their impact on others lives.
17-20	That which is evil cannot produce good and what is good cannot produce evil and every person who does not bring forth good fruit is cast into the fire. So you should know them by their fruits, which is the result of how they live their lives.
21	Not everyone who calls on Yeshua's name will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those who <u>Do The Will of His Father, which is in heaven.</u>
22-23	People won't enter in because they prophesied, cast out devils, or done many wonderful works in Yeshua's name. For those who believes these things will get them to heaven, Yeshua' says he will denounce them saying he never knew them. He says these people are workers of iniquity.
24-27	He says whoever hears and does what he teaches is wise with a solid and unmovable foundation, but whoever hears and does not do what he teaches is like a foolish person whose foundation can be easily destroyed.

28-29	The people who heard Yeshua's teachings were astonished because he taught them as a person who had authority and not as the scholars did.
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**Instructions:** Read Matthew Chapter 7 in the King James Version and answer the questions below.

1. What are some deeper ideas and themes you notice about the story in Matthew 7?
2. Does anything speak to you?

**Instructions:** Take a second look at each of these messages in Matthew 7 and find the lessons hidden within each message.

### **General Insights:**

Chapter 7 is regarding our dealings with other people. Yeshua teaches us how we must treat other people, who to trust, who belongs to Yah, and who does not belong to Yah.

In short, this is a chapter all about our responsibility to God's people and how to discern who is and is not His.

In verse 6, Yeshua teaches us that we must maintain a certain prejudice or preference to those things and people that are holy vs. those things or people that are not. This verse appears to conflict with his earlier teachings in Matthew 5:42, which says give to those who ask. However, it is not a contradiction.

What Yeshua is referring to as holy are the lost sheep of Israel and those things that belong to them – the sacred and set-apart things. He confirms this in Matthew 15 when a Canaanite (African) woman asked him to deliver her daughter from a devil. In Matthew 15:24 Yeshua says, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then in Matthew 15:26 he tells the women, "It is not meet (fitting or proper) to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." After she asked him for help. It's also important to note, that when this African woman displayed great faith in him and he helped her anyway.

The lesson here is that we must help our people when they ask for it, but others must prove themselves worthy through faith. This is evident in all of the teachings of the new testament. Yeshua says our Father gives to us freely when we seek Him, while Paul teaches gentiles that they must demonstrate their faith to receive from Him. Remember, we are to be like the Father.

Another lesson is we are not to contribute to those things that has the potential to harm Israel's destiny to return to the Father– these are unholy things. (More on this later.)

Also you must keep in mind who Yeshua's audience is at all times. During these teaching Yeshua was speaking to Israel, he referred to others as sisters and brothers of one another. That being said, when he is telling us to give to those who ask, he is referring to our brothers and sisters who are in need and reach out to us for help. We are not even

obligated to those who do not ask who are biologically our family, but only those who ask.

Asking for what we want is also a major point of this chapter. Yeshua tells us how our Father operates. He gives us what we ask for and seek. If we are not asking, nor seeking, then we will not receive.

### **Insights for Application to Life:**

#### **How are we to treat others?**

- **Judgment:** In verses 1 through 5, Yeshua says that we should not judge others unless we have prepared for the same judgement, by having overcome the thing that we are judging. For example, if you are on drugs, don't judge someone else who is also on drugs; however, if you have overcome the addiction you are fit to judge and to be judged.

He goes on to explain this concept further in verses 3 through 5, where he explains that we should sweep around our own front door, before we try to sweep around someone else's. We have to experience and overcome the struggle in order help someone else, otherwise we are just being hypocrites.

- **Giving:** He says not to give what is holy, sacred, or set-apart to what is unholy, because it will be trampled on and used against you. (Matthew 7:6)

If a brother or sister is struggling with un-holiness, meaning the things they do are not representative of God, we are not to give to those unholy things in their life. For example, you have a family member who suffers with substance abuse. If you support his/her habit, he/she will keep coming back using up your resources, causing trouble in your home and family, etc. The devil is than using that person to take your resources and your peace and using you to keep them from God. At this point the "help" you are giving is not healthy for that person or for yourself. On the other hand, that same person is hungry and asks you for food. Would you not want your Father to feed you despite your faults? You would still feed him or her, although you would not give them cash to feed the dogs and pigs - the unclean things in his or her life.

We must understand that the term holy does not only refer to people but things, situations, etc. Even though it is against the will of God to condemn the will of God in our people's lives, we are not to feed the unholy things in their lives. Yeshua is telling us to have common sense, don't give to a brother or sister to support a habit or addiction or to be used for things that are not of God, because although the person is destined for holiness, those things they struggle with are not holy and are in fact keeping them from living holy. If you feed the unholy things in their lives, you are not only hurting them, but being disobedient to the Father and harming yourself.

- **Treat others like you want them to treat you:** According to Yeshua, this is a law and prophecy. (Matthew 7:12)

### **We get what we ask God for.**

- **Asking:** Verses 7-11, Yeshua tells us that we will receive when we ask, find when we seek, and the door will be answered when we knock. He specifies that our Father will give us no less than what we ask him for.

### **How to know the intention of others?**

- **Who not to trust:** Verses 15-20 talks about false prophets and how to recognize them. These are those who look good or godly on the outside, but are evil on the inside. He says you will know them by what they DO. When a person's actions do not line up with their perceived purpose, words, or appearance, they are false prophets. You can find this in pastors and church folk who claim their faith in God and belief in Christ, but twist the Word to say what they want it to say, deny the truth, live a life that is not in accordance with the word they teach, etc.

Yeshua goes on to say that that which is evil will not do good and that which is good will not do evil. He also says that every person that does not do the will of God will be cut off and cast into the fire. Finally, he warns that we should know a person, by their actions not their appearance, nor their words.

### **Don't be like a Godless person.**

- **A Warning:** It's easy to remain in evil and many will do so, but it will lead to their destruction. It's more difficult to go back to the Father and few will do so, but it will lead to Life. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Yeshua is hinting us that the seemingly easy way is really the hardest way. Evil leads end in destruction on earth and potentially at judgement. On the other hand, God's righteousness, which seems difficult, leads to a prosperous and eternal life.

- **Don't be like a foolish man:** Yeshua teaches us that those who hear his teachings and DO them is wise and have faith that is planted on a solid foundation. But whoever hears his teachings and does not do them is like a foolish (mindless or godless) man whose foundation is a substance that is easily washed away. (Matthew 7:24-27)
- **Many "church folk" or so-called "believers" in Christ will be cast to hell:** In verses 21 and 23, he says not everyone who calls on him will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of his Father, which is in heaven.

He gives us some very familiar scenarios. He says **MANY** will say I prophesied in **YOUR NAME**, I cast our devils in **YOUR NAME**, I done many wonderful

works in **YOUR NAME**. But he will tell them, “I never knew you, depart from me, you that work iniquity (Greek word anomia = lawless ones).”

Does this sound familiar? Traditional Christians are famous for this. They/We believe that if we say the magic words, “in Jesus name”, that makes us holy, saved, and worthy. What Yeshua himself is telling us is that it means nothing if we are not obeying our Father’s will. God demands obedience from Israel, **PERIOD**.

He is also inferring that it is doing the will of the Father, and not our proclamation of him as our savior, that will get us to heaven. He is telling us the Father is our source and the One whom we must obey, if we are true believers in Yeshua’s teachings.

Drop the hocus pocus we have been taught and obey the Father as Yeshua teaches us to.

#### **We must have authority.**

- **Yeshua taught as one having authority.** If we are to mimic him, we too must teach his word with authority, knowing his truth is also ours – that is that his Father is our Father and by him we receive knowledge of and authority from our Father. (Matthew 7:28-29)

#### **Deep Thought:**

1. Do you believe that whatever you ask your Father for he will give you? Yes or No
    - a. If not, why do you think you do not get everything you ask for? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Would you consider yourself foolish or wise? Foolish or Wise
  3. Is your foundation unmovable like the man who built his house on a rock or weak like the man who built his house on sand? Rock/Strong or Sand/Weak
  4. What will you do to strengthen your foundation? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Final Thoughts:**

This chapter comes with an additional revelation. If we are to be as perfect as our Father and Yeshua is teaching us to be like our Father, then doesn’t his teachings tell us more about our Father, than about ourselves?

For example, in chapter 5, he says that we should give to those who ask and in chapter 7, he tells us that our Father will give to us when we ask. Additionally, he says that we should not give to the benefit of the devil (dogs and pigs) or the detriment of Israel, we all know from experience that our Father gives to us in the same manner. We do not get everything that we ask him for, but we do in fact always receive those things that are good for us at the moment they become beneficial to our continued holiness.

So as you are reading, keep in mind that Yeshua is not only telling us how we should be, but also how our Father operates and who He is. This way we can truly learn and understand His character and begin to ask him for those things that he will approve of, those things that will not separate us from him, but will continue to separate us from the world and draw us closer to him. Than watch Him manifest His goodness in your life.

That being said, when we know the character of our God, it is easier to be like Him and when we become like Him, he manifests himself fully in our lives, because he gives to us whatever we dish out to the world, especially to our own people.

If we hate each other, then we will be as one hated by God. If we love each other, than we will be as one loved by God. If we hypocritically judge each other, then we will be judged by our own faults by which we judge others. If we judge in righteousness, then we will be righteously judged. If we give freely to others, then God will give freely to us. If we help heal each other, then God will heal us. If we devote ourselves to the Father, then the father will devote himself to us. What a powerful revelation!

See, obedience is not for the sake of obedience and the law is not for the sake of law, nor is prophecy for the sake of prophecy, but it is all for the sake of Israel. We need to imitate or replicate God's love for us, his righteousness, his mercy, his justice, and even his preference, in order to receive the same from Him. This is His perfection. This is being like God and bearing good fruit. This is the reason we must be obedient and do the will of the Father. Whatsoever you give to the world, you will receive from the Father; but whatsoever you take from the world, you will receive from the devil.

Furthermore, the main purpose of this chapter is to teach us Godly common sense. We live in darkness, where up is down and down is up. We are gullible to the believe that the majority holds the truth and that a neatly dressed pastor is more valuable to our souls than a commonly dressed women, or that the person with the biggest church bares the most fruit. This is not so. In fact, chapter 7 teaches us that everything that looks good is not good and everyone who claims him, and even does "his work" is not good. He demonstrates for us that we must observe our reality which is not what we or others portray, but what we and others DO.

So, I leave you with this. Yah is a God of action, not foolishness. He will not give you anything that draws you away from him. Nor should we give in that manner. He will judge you only as you judge others. We are to discern truth by action, not words, or appearance. He knows our

truth based on our obedient actions, not our words or appearance. We are not saved simply by calling on Jesus or Yeshua, but by practicing what he teaches.

All the questions about life and religion are right here in His word, but we will only know what we ask him to show us and find what it is we seek. Seek truth and righteousness and all other things will be added unto you!

P.S. If you have questions, ask. If you don't have questions than share what you've learned in the discussion group so you can help others to understand.