

Matthew Chapter 7

Matthew 7:1

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Judge—Discern, sift decide.

Discern—Know or judge thoroughly, distinguish. To detect or perceive with the eyes or intellect.

Judge not refer to an unfavorable and condemnatory judgment. We're not to judge the inner motives of another, forming our own opinions. There are instances where we should judge by the spirit and not by the flesh. When we judge a thing by the spirit its called discernment whereas when we form an opinion by the flesh its called judgment.

Matthew 7:2

For with what judgment (condemnation) ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete (use), it shall be measured to you again.

Just as we form an opinion about someone, others will form their opinion about us. The majority of the time we judge by the flesh and not by the spirit. We form our opinion by what we see, hear or feel instead of discerning the matter by the spirit. As people of God we can see with our natural eyes, but God wants us to see with our spiritual eyes.

Matthew 7:3

And why beholdest thou the mote (speck) that is in thy brother's eye, but con-

siderest not the beam (plank) that is in thine own eye.

Many times we can see other people faults and failures, but we can't see ourselves, because we're too busy looking at theirs. When we're prayerful, and as we study the word of God, we will find ourselves in the scriptures, and see the motes and beams in our eyes instead of someone else. There's a daily cleansing we must go through and that's by repentance, reading and being a doer of the word. Before we point the finger at anyone, first point the finger at ourselves.

Matthew 7:4

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote (speck) out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

How quickly we can tell others what they need to do and be totally confused in what we should be doing. When we see our brother or sister in a fault, its not the time for us to criticize them, that's the time we should be praying and fasting for their deliverance.

Matthew 7:5

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye and then shall thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

When we have been converted,



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

then we can strengthen our brother. Peter walked and was taught by one of the greatest teachers'. Jesus instructed Peter before His death that once he was converted to strengthen his brother. Peter had cast out demons and healed the sick with the other disciples, but Peter needed a conversion. We too need to be converted to the righteousness of God before we can teach others, we must first be partakers of what we preach and teach.

Matthew 7:6

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Our zeal against sin must be guided by discretion, and we must not go about to give instructions, counsel and rebukes, to hardened scorners. When you give the word of God to a scorners he will resent it. A scorners is different from one that is a sinner. A sinner's heart isn't as hardened as a scorners, they will listen and follow the instructions that has been given them. But one that is a scornful could be classi-

Matthew Chapter 7

fied as an atheist or an agnostic. An agnostic is easier to witness to and convert rather than an atheist. An agnostic at least believe there is a supreme being although they may not say it's God, but they believe whereas an atheist is more anti-Christ because they deny that there is a God. Trying to witness to an atheist is like throwing your pearls to a swine, they will trample over the word of God and if you're not rooted in the Lord it may cause you to react in way that will not show the characteristic of a Christian trying to defend the word of God. Be lead by the Spirit of God when witnessing. Everyone is not going to except Jesus, ask God to send you to those that He has ordained to come into the kingdom of God so you will not be wasting your time giving the word of God to someone that will not except it. In witnessing, we must be watchful and prayerful.

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

God has given us His promise, that if we seek Him we shall find Him, and when we find Him, we shall receive what we have asked of Him. Too many times we're asking a mist because we don't believe what we're asking for or either we're only praying when we're in trouble and facing a difficulty situation. God wants to hear from His children daily. How would you feel, when the only time your child communicated with you is when they wanted something? Well, God has feelings, if He didn't, the bible wouldn't have told us not to grieve the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is God. Know that when you come to God you will receive what you ask of Him, if you're praying according to His divine purpose for the situation you're praying for.

Matthew 7:8

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

When we humble ourselves as little children, coming to God in faith we're no longer intruders, or enemies of God, we shall receive what we petition Him for. It doesn't mean if you ask one time, that you will receive your answer, you pray until your prayer is manifested. Praying more than once doesn't mean you don't have faith in God, you're seeking as the bible tells us to do, and as we continue to seek Him in prayer, the door will be opened (answer to our prayer).

Matthew 7:9

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

If our earthly father gives us what we ask him, don't you know that our Heavenly Father will give us what we ask for when we pray according to God's will and not our will? Many times our prayers are hindered because we're praying selfish prayers. Pray for God's best in people's lives whether they are saved or not, because when you begin to reach out for souls God will draw them to His Son. When you pray, pray in faith, when you think about your prayer, think in faith.

Matthew 7:10

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

You can tell a father by they way he provides for his children. Provision isn't just a roof over their head, food and clothing, but a father will provide emotionally and mentally support to their child. Asking is not always verbal, but it can be seen by what the child have need of. If a father see a child in need and turn his emotions or his support from his child, that's not a father, but an infidel.

Matthew 7:11

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

God loves us much more than our earthly father could ever love us.

There is nothing that can be going on in our lives that God cannot and will not help us with. Many times we suffer the things we suffer because we will not ask Him, we don't take the time to commune with Him. The Father has promised us **No good thing would He withhold from them that walk up rightly before Him.** So if we're walking according to the word of God, then we should have confidence that He has heard our prayers and will answer our prayers.

Matthew 7:12

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

However you want to be treated, make sure you treat people the same way. Whatever you sow you shall reap. If you sow discord and strife towards others, that is exactly what you will receive from someone else. As Christians, if we really took the scriptures to heart, there wouldn't be as many hurting people in the church. Many Christians have been hurt emotionally, it wasn't from the secular world, it came from within the church, from lay people as well as those in the pulpit. As Christians and ministers we should be aware of how we treat God's people. We should not offend people by our actions and emotions as well as our character. If we have the Spirit of God like we claim we do, we would recognize when we have offended someone and would be readily to make our amends with them.

Matthew 7:13

Enter ye in at the strait (narrow) gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.

The way to holiness is the strait way, the Bible way. The Bible gives us instructions in how to enter into heaven. When we detour to what the Bible instruct us to do, then we're going by the gate that is wide that will eventually leads us to destruction.. There are only two ways, the right way or the wrong way. Wrong way will lead us to spiritual death.

Matthew Chapter 7

You can go through the wide gate and indulge in every lustful desire you have . The wide gate gives you liberty in doing your own thing whereas the strait gate gives us temperance as children of God. The wide gate will lead its followers to Hades whereas the straight gate will lead its followers to heaven.

Matthew 7:14

Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

There are over eight hundred religions and every one have their own god that they worship. Christians shouldn't have religion, but a relationship with God. That's the difference between having God as the Father and having a relationship. If religious people had a relationship with God then they would know that you can't serve God any kind of way. It's either God's way or no way. People find religion where there will be no restrictions. There aren't as many born-again Christians as there are people that have a religious, because people want to serve God on their own time and terms and what they feel and think Christianity should be. Relationship will make an individual one with the Father and Son.

Matthew 7:15

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

There are many false prophets, and many are being lead by them because they have a religion and not a relationship with the Father and Son. False prophets will tell you the opposite of what the Bible instruct us to do as Christians. False prophets are about materialistic things instead of spiritual things. Spiritual gifts doesn't make an individual a man or woman of God. Satan followers have gifts and can demonstrate lying signs and wonders. Christians need to stay prayerful, read and study the word of God. Watch as well as pray so we can know a false prophet when he or she stands before us. If we stand before God in righteousness He will give us to discern from godly and ungodliness, but too many times, the people of

God will not take time to study and read and fellowship with the Lord, so when a false prophet come they would be able to know the difference between the prophet of God and the prophet of Satan.

Matthew 7:16

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles.

The fruits of the Spirit must be manifested in a prophet or prophetess of God. They will agree that Jesus is the Son of God, that He came in the flesh and was crucified and was raised from the dead. They believe in the empowerment of the precious blood of Jesus, the gifts of the Spirit. They will rebuke as well as exhort whereas a false prophet don't matter what mess you maybe in all they see is blessings. GOD DON'T BLESS MESS!

Matthew 7:17

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil (bad) fruit.

The normal and consistent production of fruit, whether good or evil, in a person's life will bear evidence of who they have submitted to . All you have to do is compare their life with the scriptures, if they don't compare, then you will know whose servant they are.

Matthew 7:18

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

A man or woman of God will not go against the word of God. They will only speak and attest to what the Bible says, a corrupt person will lead one in the way of destruction, because he or she only know the way of their father. Satan is against all that is good, he hates the word of God and will try to influence people to do the opposite of what the word of God says. Listen to what people are saying, many of us are hearing, but we're not listening, because if we did, it wouldn't be as many people caught up in cults, and all different types of religion that is the opposite of the word of God.

If we read and study the word of God we would know people by the fruit that they bear and not just look on the outward appearance, we would be cautious of what we listen to. If they came preaching or teaching what is contrary to the word of God, we would know to reject their doctrine.

Matthew 7:19

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.

The tree (person) that will not bring forth godly fruit will be cast into the lake of fire. Either we will produce good fruit or bad fruit, we cannot produce both. We cannot be luke warm Christians.

Matthew 7:20

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

By studying the word of God we can compare ourselves as well as others to the scriptures and we will know whether or not we're bringing forth godly or ungodly fruit. In order to bring forth godly fruit we must apply the word of God to our lives daily. Knowing the word of God and not applying it to our lives will not make us citizens of heaven. We must be doers of the word, reading the word to get head knowledge isn't affective spiritually. Let us check ourselves and see what fruits are we producing.

Matthew 7:21

Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Too often we have people faithful to the ministry and ministers, but they will not be faithful to God. God is the one that can promote and demote. Yes, we do suppose to reverence our leaders, but we don't suppose to reverence them more than we do our Heavenly Father. There are those that think because they do good deeds it will get them in to heaven, but not so according to the word of God. Many ministers are living double lives will be leaving the presence of God

to accompany Satan and his imps because they knew the word, preached and taught the word, but didn't live according to the word.

Matthew 7:22

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful (miracles) works?

The gifts and calling of God is without repentance. Someone can have several gifts of the spirit of God and yet be hell bound because they weren't loyal in serving God according to His instructions. God wants us to be committed to Him, its not about how many gifts one may possess, its about are we truly living according to the way God has instructed us to live.

Matthew 7:23

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness)

It is possible for men to have a great name for piety, and yet be workers of iniquity; and those that have will receive greater damnation., because they knew the word of God and didn't live their lives according to what they were preaching and teaching. Whenever we have been taught the word of God, we're responsible for what we do with the word of God. We can either accept it or reject it. By accepting it, we purpose to live according to the word of God, by rejecting it we're saying we're our own god and we can do what we want, when we want, and how we want to without any recompense of our life style because God knows our heart. Yes, He does know our heart, that is why He left his instructions for us to follow.

It would be ashamed to have been used by God to bless God's people with the difference gifts God has given us and when it's time to stand before God, He tells us to depart from Him, because we're workers of iniquity. In order to teach God's people, the teacher, preacher, apostle, prophet, evangelist must be first part-takers of what they expound on.

Matthew 7:24

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock.

God holds us liable for what we hear, many think because they don't attend church, they will not be held responsible for the word of God, but every time someone witness to them, every time they were switching TV channels and received a glimpse of the word, every billboard, every bumper sticker, every sign, every person that they came in contact with, through school, employment, on the bus ride home, a neighbor that was representing Jesus and they rejected it, they will be held responsible during this life as well as the life after death. Wise men fear and reverence God, fools deny that there is a God.

Matthew 7:25

And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not for it was founded upon a rock.

Sinners have trials and tribulation the same way a Christian has them, the only difference is that God will not place no more on His children that they can bear, whereas Satan will pile it on his children until they commit suicide or murder. When one has given themselves totally to God, there isn't anything that can happen that will make a Christian loose their mind, commit suicide or murder when they really have given themselves to God because they know their lives belong to God and He's big enough to get them out of whatever they maybe going through.

Matthew 7:26

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.

When we place our trust in ourselves, things and people, we're rejecting God and his awesomeness. When we dedicate our lives to the Master there is nothing or no one that can defeat us when we place our trust in Him. People will fail you, love you conditionally, but God will be there for you when there is no one else.

Oh, what a difference a day make, when you belong to God the Dow Jones can drop, you will not commit suicide. Your children can be on drugs instead of having a nervous break down, you will begin to war in the heavens for their deliverance when you know a seven step or ten step program can't help them, when God can help them in one step. When you find that your spouse is committing adultery, you can pray for both the spouse and the adulterous in sincerity that they will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior as well as forgiving them. When you have been layed off work, you rest in God, knowing that whatever door has been closed, He has a better one opened. That's when you know you have built your expectation on the rock which is Jesus and He's better than any thing that you can ever place your trust in.

Matthew 7:27

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell and great was the fall of it.

You can tell when people place their trust in people and things because when its doesn't go the way they expected, they will be devastated. They will go into depression. Many give up totally, when all they have to do is believe on the Son and let Him prove what is impossible with man is possible with God.

Matthew 7:28

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these saying, the people were astonished at his doctrine (teaching)

The majority of the people that was taught by the Master had been in the synagogue for years, probably most of their lives, but they had not heard it taught with authority and with the manifestation of the power of God backing it up, the way it was with Jesus teaching. Many of the rulers and scribes didn't have a relationship with God, they were only teaching what they had heard and what had been told them. That is why it is important that we know who our leader have a relationship with. If they don't have a relationship with the Father and Son, they

cannot lead or direct us in the way that God would have us to go because they can't hear what God is saying.

The very ones that were teaching the law, didn't except Jesus as being the Son of God although they had read in the scriptures about the coming of the Messiah, when He came on the scene, they didn't accept Him. The Old Testament spoke about Jesus and His coming as well as the way He was to die. The scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees had the law without Grace, but when Jesus came He was the Law and Grace with salvation, with healing in His hand, and they were astonished with His doctrine. His doctrine was so powerful until people were being healed of different diseases, and sickness as well as evil spirits were cast out. They had never seen the scriptures in action until Jesus came and they couldn't except it because of jealousy and envy.

Matthew 7:29

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Jesus teaching was powerful. It demonstrated the power of God. It confirmed that He was the Son of God. Miracle, signs and wonders was formed by Him. Devils and diseases bowed in His presence. The people saw the word of God in action not as it were with the teaching of the scribes.

Whenever the word of God is ministered by someone that has been called by God and they're walking in the office that God has called them in, they will flow in the anointing. Whether its singing, playing the piano, organ, leading testimony or worship service. All of us have to understand what office God has called us in and walk in that office. Too many times, we're trying to walk in offices God has not called us in, and it messes up people spiritually.

Jesus knew He was the Son of God. He knew that God had given Him all power. We as the children of God must realize the power God has given us. Jesus has given us the authority to use His name, and at His name things

must come subject to Him. Although God has given us a portion of His Spirit, we too have a part to play. We cannot go weeks and months without prayer and studying the word of God. We must take time out to spend time in His presence. He may not say a word, but as we stay in His presence, we as well as others will see a spiritual change in us. When the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees heard Peter talk, they knew he had been with Jesus. When people hear us they know whether or not we have been with Jesus.

Everyone of us have a mission. The only Jesus people we ever see will be us walking in the office as His ambassadors. Jesus nor the Father are coming from heaven to deliver or heal anyone, he commissioned us to heal the sick, cast out sickness, diseases, infirmities, as well as raise the dead, but in order for us to have the manifestation of the power of God working through us and in us we must submit ourselves totally to God. Forget about what people will say and think about you, they talked about Jesus, they will do us the same way, but we must stay focus on whose rewarding us for our commitment.

We must study ourselves approved of God, a workman that needed not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Teaching and preaching the word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit and not by a premeditated sermons. God is waiting for us to say "send me, I will go". People that aren't looking for a pat on the back, Those that have made up their mind that they will submit themselves to God in order to be a blessing to someone else.

Everyone that have except Jesus as their Savior had someone to pray and fast them into the kingdom of God. Just as the Saints of old did, we too must push our plates back and fast for people to come into the kingdom of God. People are dying without Christ in their lives and God is holding each one of us that call ourselves children of God responsible for praying people into the kingdom of God as well as witnessing to them. Prayer is powerful than witnessing, because prayer changes people whereas witnessing may just change them for the moment.

People of God, we must fight for those that can't fight for themselves. They can't go to God because of the hardness of their heart, but because we have a covenant with God, we have a relationship with Him, we can go

before God on their behalf. We can cry out to God for their souls until God make a change in them as well as their situations.

Don't let another day go by without praying for someone other than your family. Pray for other people situations and circumstances. Encourage others when you may need to be encouraged. People are hurting and we that have been born of the Spirit of God can help them by the Spirit that lives within us.

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Direct all correspondence, prayer and speaking engagement request to:

**Word of Live Ministries
Evangelist Carolyn Luke
P.O.Box 148694
Chicago, Illinois 60614**

God bless you, walk in Victory!

