CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Matthew Chapter 7 — Judgment, Prayer, and Building on the Rock

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Matthew Chapter 7 is the final part of the Sermon on the Mount.

In Matthew 5, Jesus described the heart of a kingdom citizen.

In Matthew 6, He taught us to live for our Father's eyes and to trust Him instead of worrying.

Now, in Matthew 7, Jesus brings the sermon to a powerful close.

He begins with how we treat others.

“Do not judge others, or you too will be judged.”

Before we try to fix someone else's small fault, we must deal honestly with our own large one.

Then Jesus speaks about prayer.

“Ask... seek... knock.”

Our Father in heaven is generous.

He gives good things to His children.

Then Jesus gives the famous **Golden Rule**:

“Do to others what you would want them to do to you.”

Then the sermon turns serious.

Jesus describes two gates and two roads.

One is wide and leads to destruction.

One is narrow and leads to life.

He warns about false prophets who look like sheep but are wolves inside.

He warns about people who call Him **“Lord, Lord”** but do not obey Him.

And He ends with a picture every listener could understand.

Two builders.

Two houses.

Two foundations.

One storm.

The house on the rock stands.

The house on the sand falls with a great crash.

When Jesus finished, the crowds were amazed.

He spoke with an authority no one had ever heard before.

Matthew 7 therefore calls us to a decision:

Will we only hear the words of Jesus?

Or:

Will we build our lives on them?

The central truth of Matthew 7 is:

Those who truly belong to Jesus show it by humble hearts, trusting prayer, loving actions, and lives built on obedience to His words.

I. DO NOT JUDGE

Matthew 7:1 — Or You Too Will Be Judged

“Do not judge others, or you too will be judged.”

This is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible.

It is also one of the most misunderstood.

Jesus is not saying we should never make judgments.

In this same chapter, He tells us to recognize false prophets by their fruit.

He tells us not to give what is holy to dogs.

That requires discernment.

What Jesus forbids is a **judgmental spirit.**

It is the habit of looking down on others.

Of being harsh, critical, and quick to condemn.

Of acting as though we are the final judge.

Only God is the final Judge.

Cross References

Luke 6:37

> Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Romans 2:1

> So when you judge others, you have no excuse. When you judge them, you are really judging yourself guilty, because you do the same things they do.

James 4:12

> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge. He is the only One who can save and destroy. So who are you to judge your neighbor?

Spiritual Principle

Discernment is wise; condemnation is God's business.

Key Truth

Jesus does not forbid us to tell right from wrong.

He forbids us to put ourselves in God's place.

II. THE SAME MEASURE

Matthew 7:2 — Measured Back to You

“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

In the marketplace, grain was measured out with a measuring container.

A generous seller filled it to the top.

A stingy seller gave as little as possible.

Jesus says the measure we use for others is the measure that will be used for us.

If we are harsh, we will be judged harshly.

If we are merciful, we will receive mercy.

Cross References

Luke 6:38

> Give, and it will be given to you. You will receive a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. The measure you use to give will be the measure used to give back to you.

Mark 4:24

> Pay attention to what you hear. The measure you use for others will be used for you, and even more will be added.

Romans 14:10

> Why do you judge your brother? Why do you look down on him? We will all stand before God to be judged.

Spiritual Principle

The standard we use for others is the standard we invite for ourselves.

III. THE SPECK AND THE BEAM

Matthew 7:3 — Paying No Attention to Your Own Fault

“Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye but pay no attention to the beam in your own eye?”

Jesus uses a picture that is almost funny.

A man notices a tiny **speck** of sawdust in his brother's eye.

But he has a huge **beam** of wood sticking out of his own eye.

Jesus grew up as a carpenter.

He knew about sawdust and beams.

The point is clear.

We are quick to see small faults in others.

We are slow to see big faults in ourselves.

Cross References

Luke 6:41

> Why do you notice the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the beam in your own eye?

Romans 2:21

> You teach others, so why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal?

Galatians 6:1

> Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should gently help that person get back on the right path. But be careful, so that you are not tempted too.

Spiritual Principle

Self-examination must come before correcting others.

Key Truth

The faults we notice most quickly in others are often the ones we struggle with ourselves.

IV. LET ME TAKE THE SPECK OUT

Matthew 7:4 — With a Beam in Your Own Eye

“How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is a beam in your own eye?”

Picture the scene.

A man with a beam in his eye leans close to help his brother.

He cannot see clearly.

He is more likely to hurt his brother than help him.

That is what happens when we try to correct others without dealing with our own sin.

We cannot see clearly.

We are often harsh instead of gentle.

And we become hypocrites.

Cross References

Luke 6:42

> How can you say to your brother, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,” when you can't see the beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

John 8:7

> When they kept asking Him, Jesus stood up and said, “Let any one of you who has never sinned be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Galatians 6:3

> If anyone thinks he is important when he is really nothing, he is only fooling himself.

Spiritual Principle

Pride blinds us to our own sin.

V. FIRST TAKE THE BEAM OUT

Matthew 7:5 — Then You Will See Clearly

“You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

Jesus uses strong words.

“You hypocrite!”

A hypocrite pretends to be holy while ignoring his own sin.

But notice that Jesus does not say, **“Never help your brother.”**

He says, **“First.”**

First deal with your own sin.

Then you will see clearly to help your brother.

Correcting others is not forbidden.

But it must be done by someone who has first humbled himself before God.

Cross References

Luke 6:42

> How can you say to your brother, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,” when you can't see the beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Proverbs 18:17

> The first person to tell his side of a story seems right, until someone else comes and asks him questions.

Psalm 51:3

> I know what I have done wrong, and I can't stop thinking about my sin.

Spiritual Principle

Humility gives clear vision.

Application

Before correcting someone else:

- Examine your own heart.
- Confess your own sin to God.
- Make sure your motive is love, not pride.
- Listen before you speak.
- Be gentle.
- Remember that you need grace too.

VI. PEARLS BEFORE PIGS

Matthew 7:6 — Do Not Give What Is Holy to Dogs

“Do not give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them underfoot and turn to tear you apart.”

This verse balances the first five.

Jesus has warned against being judgmental.

Now He warns against being foolish.

In those days, **dogs** were not pets.

They were wild animals that roamed the streets.

Pigs were unclean animals to the Jews.

Neither could appreciate something holy or valuable.

A pig does not know the value of a pearl.

It would trample it, then turn and attack the person who gave it.

Jesus is teaching that some people will reject and mock the truth of God again and again.

We should not keep forcing holy things on those who are hostile toward them.

This requires discernment.

Cross References

Proverbs 9:8

> Don't correct someone who makes fun of wisdom, or he will hate you. But correct a wise person, and he will love you.

2 Peter 2:22

> What they did is like the saying: “A dog goes back to what it threw up,” and “A pig that has been washed goes back to roll in the mud.”

Acts 13:46

> Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly: “We had to tell God's message to you first. But since you reject it and decide you are not worthy of eternal life, we will now go to the Gentiles.”

Spiritual Principle

Love is not foolish; it uses wisdom in sharing the truth.

Key Truth

Do not be judgmental, but do not be naive.

VII. ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Matthew 7:7 — It Will Be Given

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

Jesus now turns to prayer.

He gives three commands and three promises.

Ask — and it will be given.

Seek — and you will find.

Knock — and the door will be opened.

Each word is stronger than the one before.

Asking uses the voice.

Seeking involves effort.

Knocking shows persistence.

In Greek, these words mean **keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.**

Jesus is calling us to persistent prayer.

Cross References

Luke 11:9

> So I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.

James 1:5

> If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous to everyone and will not find fault with you for asking, and He will give it to you.

Jeremiah 29:12

> Then you will call to Me. You will come to Me and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Spiritual Principle

God invites persistent prayer.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking — the Father has not stopped listening.

VIII. EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES

Matthew 7:8 — A Promise for All

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Jesus repeats the promise.

And He says **everyone.**

This promise is for every child of God.

Not only for pastors.

Not only for the very spiritual.

For everyone who comes to the Father.

This does not mean God gives us everything we want.

A good Father gives what is good, not everything we ask for.

Sometimes His answer is yes.

Sometimes it is no.

Sometimes it is wait.

But He always hears, and He always answers in love.

Cross References

Luke 11:10

> Everyone who asks will receive. Everyone who searches will find. And everyone who knocks will have the door opened.

John 16:24

> Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy will be complete.

1 John 5:14

> This is the confidence we have when we come to God: if we ask for anything that agrees with what He wants, He hears us.

Spiritual Principle

God answers prayer according to His wisdom and love.

Key Truth

No sincere prayer goes unheard.

IX. BREAD OR A STONE?

Matthew 7:9 — A Father's Love

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?”

Jesus asks a simple question.

What father would give his son a stone when he asks for bread?

Small round loaves of bread in that region could look like stones.

But no loving father would trick his hungry child.

Even imperfect human parents know how to care for their children.

Cross References

Luke 11:11

> Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

Isaiah 49:15

> Can a mother forget the baby she is nursing? Can she feel no love for the child she gave birth to? Even if she could forget, I will never forget you!

Psalm 145:16

> You open Your hand and satisfy the needs of every living thing.

Spiritual Principle

God's love is even greater than the best human parent's love.

X. A FISH OR A SNAKE?

Matthew 7:10 — Good Gifts, Not Harmful Ones

“Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?”

Bread and fish were the everyday food of Galilee.

A snake could look a little like certain fish.

But no father would give his child something dangerous when he asked for food.

God does not give harmful gifts to His children.

When we ask for good things, He does not trick us.

Cross References

Luke 11:12

> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

James 1:17

> Every good and perfect gift comes from above, from the Father who made the lights in the sky. He does not change like moving shadows.

Psalm 84:11

> The LORD God is like a sun and a shield. The LORD gives kindness and honor. He does not hold back any good thing from those who live right.

Spiritual Principle

God never gives His children anything evil.

XI. HOW MUCH MORE

Matthew 7:11 — Your Father in Heaven

“If you, being sinful, 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!”

Jesus makes the comparison clear.

Human parents are **sinful.**

Yet they still give good gifts to their children.

How much more will our perfect Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?

Luke's Gospel says God gives **the Holy Spirit** to those who ask.

That is the greatest gift of all.

God has already given us His own Son.

He will not hold back what we truly need.

Cross References

Luke 11:13

> Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. So your Father in heaven will even more surely give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

Romans 8:32

> God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for all of us. So He will surely also give us everything else along with Him.

Malachi 3:10

> Bring the full tenth into the storehouse... Test Me in this, says the LORD who commands armies. See if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out more blessings than you have room for.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer rests on the goodness of the Father.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If God gave us His Son, we can trust Him with everything else.

XII. THE GOLDEN RULE

Matthew 7:12 — Do to Others

“So in everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

This is known as **the Golden Rule.**

Other teachers before Jesus had said something like it, but in the negative:

“Do not do to others what you would not want done to you.”

Jesus said it in the positive.

Do to others.

It is not enough to avoid hurting people.

We must actively do good to them.

Think about how you would want to be treated.

Then treat others that way.

Jesus says this **sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

The whole Old Testament teaching about how to treat others is summed up in love.

Cross References

Luke 6:31

> Treat others the way you want them to treat you.

Leviticus 19:18

> Do not try to get even or hold a grudge against anyone among your people. Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Romans 13:10

> Love never hurts a neighbor. So loving is the same as obeying all of the law.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not wait to be treated well; it takes the first step.

Application

Living the Golden Rule means:

- Speaking to others the way you want to be spoken to.
- Being patient as you want others to be patient with you.
- Forgiving as you want to be forgiven.
- Helping as you would want to be helped.
- Being honest as you want others to be honest with you.

XIII. THE WIDE GATE

Matthew 7:13 — The Road to Destruction

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.”

Now Jesus calls for a decision.

There are two gates.

There are two roads.

The **wide gate** is easy to enter.

The **broad road** is easy to travel.

It allows any belief and any way of living.

It does not require repentance.

It does not ask a person to change.

And **many** are on it.

But it leads to **destruction.**

Popular does not mean right.

Cross References

Luke 13:24

> Work hard to enter through the narrow door. Many people will try to enter, but they will not be able to.

Deuteronomy 30:19

> Today I have given you a choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Choose life, so that you and your children will live.

Proverbs 14:12

> There is a way that seems right to a person, but in the end it leads to death.

Spiritual Warning

The easy road is not always the right road.

Key Truth

The crowd is not a safe guide to eternity.

XIV. THE NARROW GATE

Matthew 7:14 — The Road That Leads to Life

“But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

The **narrow gate** is the way of Jesus.

It is narrow because there is only one way in.

Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

The road is narrow because it calls for faith, repentance, and obedience.

It means leaving behind sin and self.

But it leads to **life.**

Jesus says **only a few find it.**

This is not because God is unwilling.

It is because many do not want to give up the broad road.

Cross References

Luke 13:24

> Work hard to enter through the narrow door. Many people will try to enter, but they will not be able to.

Jeremiah 21:8

> This is what the LORD says: Look, I am giving you a choice between the way that leads to life and the way that leads to death.

Psalm 1:6

> The LORD watches over the way of good people, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

Spiritual Principle

The narrow way is hard, but it leads to life.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gate is narrow, but it is open — and Jesus Himself is the door.

XV. BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Matthew 7:15 — Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

“Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

On the narrow road, there will be dangers.

One of the greatest is **false prophets.**

These are people who claim to speak for God but do not.

Jesus says they come **in sheep's clothing.**

They look harmless.

They look like believers.

They use the right words.

But inside, they are **ravenous wolves.**

They want to use and destroy the flock for their own gain.

Cross References

Acts 20:29

> I know that after I leave, cruel wolves will come in among you. They will try to destroy the flock.

Jeremiah 23:16

> This is what the LORD who commands armies says: “Don't listen to what those prophets are telling you. They are filling you with false hopes. They are speaking visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.”

2 Peter 2:1

> There were false prophets among God's people in the past, and there will be false teachers among you too. They will secretly bring in teachings that destroy people.

Spiritual Warning

Not everyone who sounds spiritual is from God.

Key Truth

False teachers rarely look false.

That is what makes them dangerous.

XVI. KNOWN BY THEIR FRUIT

Matthew 7:16 — Grapes and Thornbushes

“You will recognize them by their fruit. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

How can we tell a false prophet?

By their fruit.

Fruit includes:

What they teach.

How they live.

What their teaching produces in others.

Thornbushes do not produce grapes.

Thistles do not produce figs.

What grows on a plant shows what kind of plant it is.

In the same way, a person's life and teaching will show what is inside.

Cross References

Luke 6:44

Every tree is known by its own fruit. People don't gather figs from thornbushes or grapes from bushes full of thorns.

James 3:12

Can a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and a salty spring cannot produce fresh water either.

Isaiah 5:2

He dug up the ground, cleared away the stones, and planted the best vines. He expected the vineyard to produce good grapes, but it produced only bad grapes.

Spiritual Principle

Time and fruit will reveal what words can hide.

XVII. GOOD TREES AND BAD TREES

Matthew 7:17 — Good Fruit and Bad Fruit

“In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”

Jesus states a simple rule of nature.

Good trees produce good fruit.

Bad trees produce bad fruit.

The fruit shows the nature of the tree.

Paul describes the good fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in a believer's life.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Cross References

Luke 6:43

A good tree does not produce bad fruit, and a bad tree does not produce good fruit.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Jeremiah 17:8

He will be like a tree planted near water that sends its roots to the stream. Its leaves stay green, and it never stops producing fruit.

Spiritual Principle

What we are on the inside will show up on the outside.

XVIII. A GOOD TREE CANNOT BEAR BAD FRUIT

Matthew 7:18 — The Nature of the Tree

“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”

Jesus goes further.

A good tree **cannot** bear bad fruit.

A bad tree **cannot** bear good fruit.

This does not mean a Christian never sins.

It means the overall direction and pattern of a person's life reveals their true nature.

A false teacher may look good for a while.

But over time, the bad fruit will appear.

Cross References

Luke 6:43

> A good tree does not produce bad fruit, and a bad tree does not produce good fruit.

Matthew 12:33

> If you want good fruit, you must make the tree good. If your tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it produces.

James 3:11

> Can fresh water and salty water flow from the same spring?

Spiritual Principle

God changes the tree, and then the fruit changes.

Key Truth

We do not become good trees by producing good fruit.

We produce good fruit because God has made us new.

XIX. CUT DOWN AND THROWN INTO THE FIRE

Matthew 7:19 — The End of Bad Trees

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

These are almost the same words John the Baptist preached in Matthew 3:10.

Jesus confirms John's warning.

Judgment is coming.

Trees without good fruit will be cut down.

False prophets will not escape.

Fruitless lives will face God's judgment.

Cross References

Matthew 3:10

> Even now the axe is ready to chop at the root of the trees. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Luke 3:9

> The axe is already lying at the roots of the trees. Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

John 15:6

> If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Those branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Spiritual Warning

A fruitless life is a serious warning sign.

Spiritual Principle

Fruit comes from staying connected to Jesus.

XX. YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM

Matthew 7:20 — By Their Fruit

“So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.”

Jesus repeats verse 16.

Repetition shows importance.

We must not be fooled by appearance, popularity, or impressive words.

We must look at the fruit.

Does their teaching agree with God's Word?

Does their life show godly character?

Does their ministry lead people to Jesus?

Cross References

1 John 3:10

> This is how you can tell who are God's children and who are the devil's children: Anyone who does not do what is right is not from God. And anyone who does not love his brother or sister is not from God.

Titus 1:16

> They say they know God, but the way they live shows they don't really know Him.

3 John 1:11

> Dear friend, don't follow what is evil. Follow what is good. Whoever does good belongs to God. Whoever does evil has never seen God.

Spiritual Principle

Words can be faked; fruit cannot be faked for long.

Application

When testing a teacher, ask:

- Does he teach what the Bible actually says?
- Does he point people to Jesus or to himself?
- Is his life marked by holiness?
- Is he humble or proud?
- Is he honest about money?
- What fruit is seen in those who follow him?

XXI. LORD, LORD

Matthew 7:21 — Doing the Will of the Father

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of My Father in heaven.”

Now Jesus turns from false prophets to false disciples.

These are people who call Jesus **“Lord.”**

They say it twice, **“Lord, Lord,”** showing strong feeling.

But saying the right words is not enough.

Only those who **do the will of the Father** will enter the kingdom.

Notice that Jesus calls God **“My Father.”**

And notice that Jesus is the One who decides who enters the kingdom.

This is a clear claim that Jesus is the final Judge.

Cross References

Luke 6:46

> Why do you call Me, “Lord, Lord,” but do not do what I say?

James 2:14

> My brothers and sisters, what good is it if someone says he has faith but does nothing to show it? Can that kind of faith save him?

Romans 2:13

> It is not the people who hear the law who are right with God. It is the people who obey the law who will be made right.

Spiritual Principle

Saving faith always leads to obedience.

Key Truth

We are not saved by our works.

But true faith always works.

XXII. DID WE NOT PROPHESY?

Matthew 7:22 — Many Will Say on That Day

“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?’”

“That day” is the Day of Judgment.

Jesus says **many** will come to Him with impressive religious records.

They prophesied.

They drove out demons.

They did many miracles.

And they did it all **“in Your name.”**

These were not people who ignored Jesus.

They were busy in religious activity.

But religious activity is not the same as a relationship with Jesus.

Cross References

Luke 13:26

> Then you will say, “We ate and drank with You, and You taught in our streets.”

Jeremiah 14:14

> The LORD said to me, “The prophets are telling lies in My name. I did not send them or give them orders or speak to them.”

1 Corinthians 13:2

> I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all secrets and know everything. I may have so much faith that I can move mountains. But if I don't have love, I am nothing.

Spiritual Warning

Spiritual gifts and religious success do not prove salvation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

It is possible to work for Jesus without ever knowing Jesus.

XXIII. I NEVER KNEW YOU

Matthew 7:23 — Depart from Me

“Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

These may be the most frightening words in the Bible.

“I never knew you.”

Jesus does not say, **“I knew you once, but you fell away.”**

He says, **“I never knew you.”**

There was never a true relationship.

To be **known** by God in the Bible means to have a personal, saving relationship with Him.

Then Jesus calls them **“workers of lawlessness.”**

For all their religious activity, they did not do the will of the Father.

They lived by their own rules.

Cross References

Luke 13:27

> But He will say, “I tell you, I don't know you or where you come from. Get away from Me, all of you who do evil!”

Psalm 6:8

> Get away from me, all of you who do evil, because the LORD has heard me crying.

2 Timothy 2:19

> But God's strong foundation stands firm. These words are written on it: “The Lord knows those who belong to Him,” and “Everyone who says he belongs to the Lord must stop doing wrong.”

Spiritual Principle

What matters most is not that we know about Jesus, but that Jesus knows us.

Key Truth

Salvation is not a résumé of religious works.

It is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

XXIV. THE WISE BUILDER

Matthew 7:24 — Built on the Rock

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Jesus ends the sermon with a story.

It is about two builders.

The first is **wise.**

He **hears** the words of Jesus.

And he **puts them into practice.**

He builds his house **on the rock.**

In Israel, many valleys were dry in summer.

The sandy ground looked like a good place to build.

But a wise builder dug down to solid rock.

It took more work.

It took more time.

But it would last.

Notice that Jesus says **“these words of Mine.”**

He puts His own words in the place of God's Word.

Cross References

Luke 6:48

> He is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on rock. When the flood came, the water rushed against that house, but it could not shake it, because it was built well.

1 Corinthians 3:11

> No one can lay any other foundation than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Psalm 18:2

> The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my rescuer. My God is my rock, where I am safe.

Spiritual Principle

Wisdom is not just hearing God's Word; it is doing it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Rock, and obedience to His words is building on Him.

XXV. THE HOUSE THAT STOOD

Matthew 7:25 — The Storm Came

“The rain came down, the floods rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because its foundation was on the rock.”

The storm came.

Notice that Jesus does not say **“if”** the storm comes.

Storms come to every life.

Rain from above.

Floods from below.

Winds from every side.

These are pictures of trials, suffering, temptation, loss, and finally the judgment of God.

The wise man's house was hit by the same storm as everyone else.

But it **did not fall.**

Why?

Because its foundation was on the rock.

Cross References

Isaiah 28:16

> This is what the Lord GOD says: “Look, I am laying a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a valuable cornerstone, a firm foundation. Whoever trusts in it will never be shaken.”

Psalm 46:2

> So we will not be afraid, even if the earth shakes and the mountains fall into the sea.

Luke 6:48

> He is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on rock. When the flood came, the water rushed against that house, but it could not shake it, because it was built well.

Spiritual Principle

Faith built on Christ does not keep the storm away; it keeps you standing in the storm.

Key Truth

The storm does not build the foundation.

It reveals it.

XXVI. THE FOOLISH BUILDER

Matthew 7:26 — Built on Sand

“But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.”

The second builder is **foolish.**

Notice something important.

He also **hears** the words of Jesus.

He was in the same crowd.

He heard the same sermon.

The difference is not what he heard.

The difference is what he did.

He **did not put them into practice.**

He built **on sand.**

It was quicker.

It was easier.

From the outside, his house may have looked just as good as the wise man's house.

The difference was hidden below the surface.

Cross References

Luke 6:49

> But the one who hears My words and does not obey them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the flood came, the house fell right away and was completely destroyed.

Ezekiel 13:11

> Tell those who cover the weak wall with whitewash that it will fall. Heavy rain will come, I will send hailstones, and a strong wind will tear it down.

Job 4:19

> How much more will He blame people who live in houses made of clay, whose foundations are in the dust.

Spiritual Warning

Hearing without obeying is self-deception.

XXVII. A GREAT CRASH

Matthew 7:27 — The House That Fell

“The rain came down, the floods rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The same storm came.

The same rain.

The same floods.

The same winds.

But this time, the house **fell.**

And it fell **with a great crash.**

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount not with a gentle word but with a warning.

It is possible to hear the greatest sermon ever preached and still be lost.

Cross References

Luke 6:49

> But the one who hears My words and does not obey them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the flood came, the house fell right away and was completely destroyed.

Proverbs 14:11

> The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of good people will do well.

Ezekiel 13:14

> I will tear down the wall you covered with whitewash. I will knock it to the ground so that its foundation can be seen.

Spiritual Principle

Every life will be tested, and only what is built on Christ will stand.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Two houses can look the same on a sunny day; only the storm shows the difference.

XXVIII. THE CROWDS WERE AMAZED

Matthew 7:28 — At His Teaching

“When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching,”

The sermon was over.

The people were **amazed.**

The word means they were astonished, almost overwhelmed.

They had never heard anything like this.

This phrase, **“When Jesus finished saying these things,”** appears five times in Matthew.

Each time, it marks the end of one of Jesus' five major teaching sections.

Cross References

Mark 1:22

> The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them like someone who had authority, not like the teachers of the law.

Luke 4:32

> They were amazed at His teaching, because His words had authority.

John 7:46

> The guards answered, “No one ever spoke the way this man speaks!”

Spiritual Principle

The words of Jesus still amaze those who truly listen.

XXIX. HE TAUGHT WITH AUTHORITY

Matthew 7:29 — Not Like the Teachers of the Law

“because He taught with authority, not like their teachers of the law.”

Why were the people amazed?

Because Jesus taught **with authority.**

The teachers of the law usually quoted other rabbis.

They would say, **“Rabbi so-and-so said this.”**

Jesus did not quote anyone else.

He said, **“But I tell you.”**

He spoke as the One who gave the law.

He spoke as the One who will judge all people.

He spoke as God.

Cross References

Mark 1:27

> The people were all amazed and asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey Him.”

Luke 4:36

> All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What kind of message is this? With authority and power He gives orders to evil spirits, and they come out!”

Titus 2:15

> Teach these things. Encourage and correct people with full authority. Don't let anyone look down on you.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus does not offer opinions; He speaks with the authority of God.

Key Truth

Because Jesus speaks with authority, His words demand a response.

XXX. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM MATTHEW 7

1. Judge Yourself Before Others

Hypocrisy blinds us.

Humility clears our vision.

Principle:

Deal with your own beam before you point out another's speck.

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2. Persistent Prayer Is Rewarded

Ask, seek, and knock, for God is a generous Father.

Principle:

Keep praying, because your Father loves to give good gifts.

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3. The Golden Rule

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

This sums up God's law.

Principle:

Love takes the first step.

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4. Few Choose the Narrow Way

The path to life is hard and requires true faith and obedience.

Principle:

Do not follow the crowd; follow Christ.

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5. Fruit Reveals Character

True prophets and true believers are known by their actions, not just their words.

Principle:

What is inside will always show up on the outside.

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6. Empty Religion Is Dangerous

Saying “Lord, Lord” without obedience leads to rejection.

Principle:

Knowing about Jesus is not the same as being known by Jesus.

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7. Obedience Is the Foundation

Building on Jesus' words is the only way to stand firm when storms come.

Principle:

Hearing is the beginning; doing is the foundation.

XXXI. THE TWOS OF MATTHEW 7

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with a series of contrasts.

Each one calls for a choice.

Two Gates

The narrow gate and the wide gate.

Two Roads

The road to life and the road to destruction.

Two Groups

The few and the many.

Two Kinds of Trees

Good trees and bad trees.

Two Kinds of Fruit

Good fruit and bad fruit.

Two Kinds of Disciples

Those who say “Lord, Lord” and those who do the Father's will.

Two Builders

The wise and the foolish.

Two Foundations

Rock and sand.

Two Outcomes

A house that stands and a house that falls.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

There is no third road — every person is on one path or the other.

XXXII. JUDGING RIGHTLY AND WRONGLY

Matthew 7 teaches us both what not to do and what we must do.

Wrong Judging

- Condemning others as though we were God.
- Being harsh and critical.
- Ignoring our own sin.
- Looking down on others.
- Judging motives we cannot see.

Right Discernment

- Examining ourselves first.
- Gently helping others who are caught in sin.
- Recognizing false teachers by their fruit.
- Using wisdom in sharing the truth.
- Comparing everything to God's Word.

Key Truth

Jesus calls us to be humble about ourselves and wise about others.

XXXIII. WHAT MATTHEW 7 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

Matthew 7 presents Jesus as:

The Wise Teacher

He teaches us how to treat others.

The Revealer of the Father

He shows us a generous Father who gives good gifts.

The Narrow Gate

He is the only way to life.

The Judge

He will say, **“I never knew you,”** or welcome us into His kingdom.

The Rock

He is the only foundation that will stand.

The One with Authority

He speaks as God Himself.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Jesus who taught on the mountain is the Judge who will stand at the end of history — and the Rock on which every safe life is built.

XXXIV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Does “Do not judge” mean Christians should never call anything wrong?

No.

Jesus Himself tells us to recognize false prophets by their fruit and to use wisdom with holy things.

He is forbidding a harsh, condemning, hypocritical spirit.

Only God is the final Judge.

Question 2

What is the point of the speck and the beam?

We are quick to see small faults in others and slow to see big faults in ourselves.

Jesus calls us to deal with our own sin first.

Then we will see clearly to help others with humility and gentleness.

Question 3

What does it mean not to throw pearls before pigs?

It means using wisdom when sharing holy truth.

Some people repeatedly mock and reject God's Word.

We should not keep forcing holy things on those who are hostile and only want to attack them.

Question 4

What do the words “ask, seek, knock” teach about prayer?

They teach persistence.

The Greek words mean to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking.

God invites us to keep coming to Him.

Question 5

Does God give us everything we ask for?

No.

A good father gives what is good, not everything a child asks for.

God always hears, and He answers according to His wisdom and love.

Question 6

What is the Golden Rule, and why is it important?

It is to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Jesus said it sums up the Law and the Prophets.

It calls us to actively do good, not just to avoid doing harm.

Question 7

What are the narrow gate and the wide gate?

The wide gate is easy and popular but leads to destruction.

The narrow gate is the way of Jesus.

It requires faith, repentance, and obedience, and it leads to life.

Question 8

How can we recognize false prophets?

By their fruit.

We should look at what they teach, how they live, and what their teaching produces in others.

Their message must agree with God's Word.

Question 9

What does Jesus mean by “I never knew you”?

It means there was never a true saving relationship.

These people did religious things, but they did not truly belong to Jesus.

To be known by God means to have a personal relationship with Him.

Question 10

Are we saved by doing the will of the Father?

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by our works.

But true saving faith always produces obedience.

A person who never obeys shows that their faith is not real.

Question 11

What is the difference between the wise and foolish builders?

Both heard the words of Jesus.

The wise builder put them into practice.

The foolish builder did not.

The storm revealed the difference.

Question 12

Why were the crowds amazed at the teaching of Jesus?

Because He taught with authority.

The teachers of the law quoted other rabbis.

Jesus said, **“But I tell you,”** speaking with the authority of God Himself.

Question 13

What should Matthew 7 change about the way Christians live today?

Matthew 7 should cause believers to live:

- Examining themselves before judging others.
- Correcting others with humility and gentleness.
- Praying with persistence and confidence.
- Treating others the way they want to be treated.
- Choosing the narrow way over the popular way.
- Testing teachers by God's Word.
- Bearing good fruit.
- Obeying Jesus, not only hearing Him.
- Building their lives on Christ the Rock.

XXXV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Matthew 7 asks several important questions.

Am I Quick to Judge Others?

Do I see their faults more clearly than my own?

What Beam Is in My Own Eye?

Is there sin I am ignoring while pointing out others' sin?

Am I Persistent in Prayer?

Or do I give up too quickly?

Do I Trust That My Father Is Good?

Do I believe He wants to give good gifts to me?

Am I Living the Golden Rule?

How would I want to be treated by the people around me today?

Which Road Am I On?

Am I following Jesus, or following the crowd?

What Fruit Is My Life Producing?

Would others see the fruit of the Spirit in me?

Am I Testing What I Hear?

Do I compare teachers and messages to God's Word?

Do I Really Know Jesus, or Only Know About Him?

Am I Building on the Rock?

Am I doing what Jesus says, or only hearing it?

XXXVI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Hearing Is Not Enough”

The Sermon on the Mount ends with two men.

Both were in the crowd.

Both heard Jesus.

Both built a house.

Both faced the same storm.

The only difference was obedience.

One man heard and did.

The other man heard and did nothing.

The same is true for the people who said, **“Lord, Lord.”**

They had the right words.

They had impressive works.

But they did not do the will of the Father.

This creates a powerful principle.

It is possible to admire Jesus, quote Jesus, and work for Jesus, and still not obey Jesus.

And on the day of the storm, only obedience built on Christ will stand.

Principle:

Do not measure your faith by what you know about Jesus, but by whether you do what Jesus says.

XXXVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Matthew Chapter 7 ends the greatest sermon ever preached.

For three chapters, Jesus has spoken.

He has blessed the humble.

He has called His followers salt and light.

He has gone deeper than the law to the heart.

He has taught us to pray.

He has warned us about money and worry.

He has told us not to judge and to treat others as we want to be treated.

Now He brings everything to a single point.

What will you do with My words?

You can hear them and walk away.

You can admire them and do nothing.

You can say, **“Lord, Lord,”** and keep living your own way.

Or you can build your life on them.

Matthew 7 therefore reminds us:

A storm is coming to every life.

Trials will come.

Temptation will come.

Death will come.

Judgment will come.

And on that day, only one foundation will hold.

The difference between standing and falling is not:

How much we heard.

How religious we looked.

Or how many works we did.

It is:

Whether we built on the Rock.

The same call still stands:

Examine your own heart.

Keep asking, seeking, and knocking.

Treat others as you want to be treated.

Enter through the narrow gate.

Bear good fruit.

Do the will of the Father.

Build your life on the words of Jesus.

And until He returns:

Keep building.

Keep obeying.

Keep standing.

Keep trusting the Rock.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the words of Jesus.

Thank You that He speaks with Your authority.

Forgive us for the times we have judged others harshly.

Forgive us for seeing the speck in someone else's eye while ignoring the beam in our own.

Show us our own sin.

Give us humble hearts.

When we need to help others, make us gentle and wise.

Thank You that You are a generous Father.

Teach us to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking.

Thank You that You give good gifts to Your children.

Thank You most of all for giving us Your Son.

Help us treat others the way we want to be treated.

Make us people who take the first step in love.

Lord Jesus, You are the narrow gate.

Keep us from the wide road, even when many are walking on it.

Give us courage to follow You when it is hard and unpopular.

Protect us from false teachers.

Give us discernment to test everything by Your Word.

Produce good fruit in our lives by Your Holy Spirit.

Keep us from empty religion.

Do not let us be people who say, “Lord, Lord,” but do not obey.

Let us truly know You, and be known by You.

Help us not only to hear Your words but to do them.

Build our lives on You, our Rock.

When the storms come, keep us standing.

And on the final day, may we hear You welcome us into Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” — Matthew 7:24

Central Truth

Those who truly belong to Jesus show it by humble hearts, trusting prayer, loving actions, and lives built on obedience to His words.

Matthew 7 in One Sentence

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by warning against hypocritical judgment, inviting persistent prayer to a generous Father, calling His followers to the narrow way and to good fruit, and teaching that only those who hear and obey His words are building on the rock that will stand.