

The Gospel of Matthew #70**Sermon on the Mount: chapter 7: Climax of instruction & warnings**Overview of Matthew 7:

7:1-12: The danger when you hear chapters 5 & 6 is to still try to establish your own righteousness. That will lead to 4 feelings:

7:1-5: feel superior by Law → judge everyone

7:6: feel superior by “Love” → judge no one

7:7-11 feel hopeless; need enlarge confidence in the Father

7:12 feel confused; simplified summary

7:13-27: Final invitations and warnings by means of 4 contrasts:

7:13-4 2 gates & roads: wide & narrow

7:15-20 2 kinds of fruit: bad & good

7:21-23 2 displays of “faith”: simple obedience & flashy miracles

7:24-27 2 foundations: sand & rock

Be very careful to know where you are!

THE “GOLDEN RULE”**Matthew 7:12**

This is the **climax** of the Sermon. After this only 4 warnings.

Remember ch 5: God is **Righteous**; we also must be

Ch 6: God is **Father**; we are to live as if He is

Ch 7: 4 reactions to this: critical – naïve –discouraged

(remember today the FATHER illustration!) –

4th reaction: **Confused!**

Feel confused because He has said so much; how get a handle on the core of it all?? Where begin??

So 7:12 is the answer to that Q.

Note: “Therefore”: 7:12 takes you back to:

1) 5:17-20: it is the summary of true righteousness unfolded in ch 5; the summary of the Law (7:12b)

2) 7:7-11: in light of your good Father (unfolded in ch 6) Who concerned to give you your best

In your confusion, expressed in 7:7-11, start here.

This command does 3 things for you:

I. It _____ the Law for you

Consider some examples of how it helps in the instructions in this sermon:

- Abusive anger (5:21-22)
- Reconciliation (5:23-26)
- Marital faithfulness (5:27-32)
- Trust (5:33-37)
- Love when I do not deserve it (5:43-47)
- Not criticize and believe the worst about me (7:1-5)

It shows you Jesus, Who was never confused about how to love

II. It _____ you on others

Get your mind off yourself! You are not the center of the universe!
Use your awareness of your needs and desires to show you how to love others

It shows you Jesus, the most other-focused Person Who ever lived. He knew your greatest need, and laid down His life to meet it!

III. It _____ you

You cannot do this. Try for the next two days!

It shows you your need for the cross, and Jesus' forgiveness (cf Mt 1:21), and power (v7-11: "Good" = "Holy Spirit")