

Guided Bible Study: Week 7

May 2-8, 2020

During the time we cannot meet publicly due to the Corona Virus emergency, Rick is going to post a guided Bible study on here to help fill the void left by not having Sunday School and Wednesday night classes. We encourage you to read the passage in the Bible together with your family. Questions and brief comments to help guide your study appear here. We are going to feature Jesus' SERMON ON THE MOUNT from Matthew chapters 5-7. We will post the study for a new section of this passage each week.

Matthew 7.13-14: These are some of the most sobering verses in the Bible. The majority of people are lost! Most people will end up lost! Let's be careful about dismissing this truth by thinking just of those who follow idolatrous religions or are atheists as being those headed for hell. Even if Jesus had only those in mind, these verses should stand out to us as an urgent call to action for evangelism and missions. However, Jesus spoke these words to a God-believing culture. Let's realize it's not enough just to know about God and Jesus and live in a still somewhat Christian culture. Let's be sure we are truly following Jesus. [DISCUSS: 1. Which road are you on? 2. What are you doing about the many on the wrong road?]

Matthew 7.15-20: [Discuss: Do you buy into the notion and "Anything you believe is OK as long as you are sincere?"] If your answer was, "yes", please read these verses again. JESUS says there are false prophets. They appear to be good ("sheep's clothing"). This could be in the form of doing some good and even teaching some truth. It could also be simply being nice persons or attractive and interesting television personalities. In the end, the "fruit" of following the teachings of such false teachers is bad. It leads to hell. Therefore, it's really important to learn and follow God's Word. [Read and discuss: Acts 17.11; 20.13-32. Galatians 1.8-9. II Thessalonians 2.1-11. I Timothy 4.1-6. II Timothy 3.14-17; 4.1-5]

Matthew 7.21-23: These verses tie in to the previous verses, both about the straight and narrow ways and about false teachings. However, they go beyond just those connections. It's not enough to just claim to follow Jesus. We must really follow Jesus. Don't just call Jesus "Lord"; really make Him the Lord of your life! Put Him in control.

Note that we can do a lot of religious things, even "Christian" things but not really be following Jesus. Let's make sure we are truly doing the will of our Father in heaven! [DISCUSS: Is Jesus truly the Lord of your life? How can you more fully make Him your Lord?]

While I believe this says "a ton" to those of us who are Christians, to see that we are genuine, these verses also speak to any of you who haven't obeyed the Gospel. It's not enough

to go to church, have a Christian family, or do Christian things. If you haven't personally made Jesus your Lord and Savior, please do so at once! [Consider: John 3.17; Mark 1.15; Matthew 10.32; Mark 16.16; and Acts 2.38.]

Matthew 7.24-27: If you know anything about building you know what Jesus is saying. Of course, He isn't teaching the building trades here. As He says, He is teaching about what we do with His Word. Do we learn it and put it into practice in our lives or do we hear it (or read it) and then ignore it, going on doing things our way? Jesus has taught many key principles of the Christian life here in the "Sermon on the Mount". What are you going to do with these teachings?

Matthew 7.28-29: Matthew adds this comment. He likely saw this event first hand since he was an apostle. Jesus taught with authority, not just quoting other rabbis like the teachers of His day did. Jesus taught with authority because He has authority. He is the Son of God. He is Savior and Lord. [Discuss: Is He YOURS?]