

Matthew 7: The Nature & Fruit of Our Triune Salvation

Section I, v. 1-12 Summary: Treat others as you would have them treat you. We should want others to treat us in a God-honoring way. Since the measure which we use to interact with others will be measured to us again: therefore, treat others as you would have God to treat you. The Lord is merciful, forgiving, patient, gracious, and generous; so, let us seek to show the same to others.

I. The Main point

1. Matthew 7:12 – *Whatever you would desire someone to do to you, do even so to them. [Treat/love others as yourself]*
 - i. Matthew 22:39 – *Love your neighbor as yourself*
 1. Romans 13:8-10
 2. Galatians 5:13-14
 - ii. 2 Timothy 3:1-2a – *Difficult/dangerous times*
2. **Reflect:** If The Lord only blessed you, loved you, forgave you, treated you, etc., as you regularly do unto others, how would your life look? ... Do you regularly put yourself in others' shoes as it were, or think about how an action, word, etc., would affect others or be perceived from their vantage point?
 - i. *We want to be selfless: putting others first*
 1. Philippians 2:3-7
 2. 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

II. 3 Areas of Loving/Treating others as yourself

1. Judgment of actions [v.1-5]
 - i. Mercy exults over judgment
 1. James 2:12-13
 - a. Romans 8:1-4
 - b. Romans 6:22-23
 - ii. Moderation/reasonableness
 1. Philippians 4:5
 2. James 3:17
 - a. Reasonable means, “*not [exceeding just or usual bounds]; not excessive...*”
 - b. Moderate means, “*...limited; restrained...observing reasonable bounds...*”
 - iii. Showing mercy
 1. Micah 6:8
 2. Zechariah 7:8-10
 3. Don't be a hypocrite
 - a. Proverbs 27:19 – *If you see it in another, it may be because it is in you*
 - iv. **The Lord is merciful**

1. Psalms 23:6 – *God pursues us with goodness & mercy*
 2. Lamentations 3:22-23
 3. Malachi 3:6
 4. Isaiah 61:1-2
 5. Matthew 18:22 – *Seventy times seven*
- v. **Reflect:** Is the measuring stick you use toward others when they are at fault the same one you would have The Lord use for you?
2. Discerning Character [v. 6]
 - i. Other uses of “dogs” (not good)
 1. Philippians 3:2
 2. Revelation 22:15
 - ii. **The Lord is patient/gracious with our failure/slow progress**
 1. Luke 13:6-9
 2. **Reflect:** How patient are you with the slow progress and/or failures of another? How quick are you to make the determination upon someone else of “dog” or “swine”?
 - iii. Psalms 86:12-13 – *Have a humble view of your salvation*
 1. **Reflect:** Do I think it was easier for The Lord to save me than another? Do I feel or act as though I deserve more mercy/leniency because I have generally led a “more righteous” life than another?
 - iv. **Reflect:** My willingness to share God’s word with others, those holy and precious pearls/jewels, reveals either pride or humility. Am I very willing to share? Or does my negative view of others’ character often prevent me from sharing, as though they were not worthy to hear?
3. Generosity [v. 7-12]
 - i. Be persistent in prayer – *Continue to ask, seek, and knock*
 1. Colossians 4:2
 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 3. Romans 12:12
 4. Don’t give up
 - a. Hebrews 6:11-12; 10:35-36
 - ii. Don’t pray like Saul
 1. 1 Samuel 28:6-7
 - iii. **The Lord is generous**
 1. Philemon 1:21
 2. Jeremiah 32:41
 3. **The Lord gives good things**
 - a. James 1:17
 4. **The Lord desires to answer us**
 - a. John 16:24
 - b. Matthew 21:22

- iv. **Reflect:** Am I generous with others? I want The LORD to answer my requests and be generous with me; but am I desiring and willing to answer the needs of others?
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 9:6
 - 2. Proverbs 11:24-25

Section II, v. 13-29 Summary: A man who has entered into the true way of salvation has done so through faith in Jesus alone. He has begun a lifelong journey of intimate fellowship with Jesus, and because of his true love for Christ and regeneration, exhibits a lifestyle of continued confession in His lordship and obedience to His will and words.

I. The Main Point

- 1) Matthew 7:21-24 – *Those who are truly saved, are those whose genuine relationship with Jesus produces in them a lifestyle of hearing Jesus and obeying Jesus.*
 - i. **A trinity of salvation: confession/belief, obedience, & relationship**
 - 1. Matthew 7:21 – *Do you **confess Jesus as Lord?***
 - a. Romans 10:10
 - b. Continuous
 - i. Acts 2:47
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 1:18
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 1:10
 - 2. Matthew 7:21-25 – *Do you have **a lifestyle of obedience?***
 - a. Luke 6:46
 - i. Lord means, “*a master; a person possessing supreme power and authority; a ruler; a governor.*”
 - 1. Governor means, “*he that [directs and controls...the actions or conducts of men]...*”
 - b. 1 John 3:4-10 – *A lifestyle of righteousness/obedience*
 - i. 1 John 1:5-2:1
 - ii. John 3:14-22
 - 3. Matthew 7:23 – ***Does Jesus know you***
 - a. John 10:14
 - ii. **Examples from nature**
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 13:5 – *Test/examine your salvation*
 - a. Cassava
 - b. Elderberry & Pokeweed
 - c. Wild Grapes & Moonseed

II. Three Characteristics of Salvation and Those who are Being Saved

- 1) The Narrow Gate [v. 13-14]
 - i. Luke 13:24-27 – *There is one door: faith in Jesus*

1. John 10:7-10
2. John 14:6
3. Acts 4:12
- ii. Matthew 7:22 – *Notice what they point to as evidence: miraculous works*
- 2) The Way Has Been Made Hard [v. 13-14]
 - i. Acts 14:22 – *Expect affliction*
 - ii. Hebrews 2:10 – *Expect to be made complete as Jesus was: through suffering*
 - iii. Seven sources of affliction, which are unique to “the way”
 1. Temptation
 - a. Luke 22:42-44
 2. Testing/purification/trials
 - a. 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:1-2, 12-13
 3. Care for the spiritual wellbeing of others
 - a. Philippians 2:19-21
 - b. 2 Corinthians 11:28
 4. Discipline/punishment from God
 - a. Hebrews 12:5-13
 5. Persecution
 - a. John 15:18-21
 6. Spiritual warfare
 - a. Ephesians 6:10-18
 7. Growing pains
 - a. Romans 8:28-29
 - b. Hebrews 2:10
 - iv. **Reflect:** Am I experiencing trouble as The Lord says I should? Is this trouble self-inflicted through foolishness and sinful living, or am I suffering merely because I am now a Christian? ... Do I accept suffering with joy? Or do I resist it and always seek ease?
- 3) Those in The Way Produce Good Fruit (most of the time) [v. 15-20]
 - i. A new nature/creature
 1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *A new creature, a new tree*
 2. Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31; 36:26
 3. Matthew 12:33
 - ii. God expects fruit
 1. Matthew 3:10
 2. John 15:4-6
 - a. Ezekiel 15:2-4a
 3. Hebrews 6:7-8
 4. Luke 13:6-9
 - iii. What is good fruit?
 1. Galatians 5:22-23
 - a. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8