

Foundations Bible Study – Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 5

Scripture Readings:

- **Matthew 7:1- 12**

Lesson

There is lots of stuff packed into this short text. I would rather take longer Bible readings than this to study, but this week there is much here for us to talk about and also just to think about. I hope you enjoy your time here at the Foundations Bible study, and I encourage you to leave your comments on the discussion page. They can be short or long, and you don't have to answer all the questions if you don't have the time or the desire. Also you can return to the discussion page and see what other folks have written as well. Good studying of God's Word to you!

Judge not lest you be judged, well I don't like these words of Christ. Why? Because I rather enjoy judging other folks. But I have to tell you: the older I get, the less judging I do. (So you all are in good shape.) Christ speaks here to a way of life many of us as humans tend to follow. Judging and talking, (gossiping,) about other people. Why do we enjoy it so? I think I know why I do: 1. Judging others lets me off the hook, 2. I rather like comparing myself to others, I think it makes me feel better about myself.

How about you? Do you like judging others, are you the one who points out the preacher's flaws; or just anyone's problems. Do you think you could run things better, make things better, raise children better, run the church better. Maybe you could I don't know, but here Christ warns us all to STOP being judgmental. I believe this is a very good lesson; in fact I strongly believe that if the church is ever to reach out to the world as it is called to do, we must stop being the judge of all people and just be the lovers of all. God loves all and so can I. I have to believe that is true and I want very much for the church to live out this great eternal truth. We are called to be lovers not judges, God help us to be a church that lives and breathes this wonderful Good News.

Next Jesus moves to a topic that has been misunderstood for years, ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will open for you. There is power and hope in these words of Christ. But, I cannot understand all that it means for me. I have not received all I've asked for, I haven't found all I sought after, and I've had more than a few doors slammed in my face. So what is Jesus trying to tell us? How does this stuff work anyway? I do believe the words of Christ and I do believe God is speaking and using me and you for the Kingdom work. I also know for a fact I ask for things I do not need, and I knock on doors I have no business at in the first place. God is listening and using me for God's

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work, it is just that, sometimes I do not see how God is working or why. That is the way I see it, how about you?

As for me I'll keep asking, seeking, and knocking till I leave this world behind and I'll sleep well every night knowing God hears my prayers and loves me so, I'll never understand it all, much as I try.

Finally I must mention and ask you to think about this line Jesus uses, that has come to be known as The Golden Rule. (verse 12) I think he is right, but Lord it is hard to live that way all the time. I'd rather be the one receiving all the good things, than the one handing them out to those folks who seem ungrateful, rude, prideful, stuck up, hateful..... Looks like I'm back to judging.

God help me remember, "The law and the prophets can be summed up in this jewel of living, treat others the way you want to be treated. That my friend is the Golden Rule." God help me!

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Why do you think we are all so judgmental at times?
2. If Jesus is right about this asking and seeking stuff, what do you think is the problem?
3. Is it hard for you, or easy for you, to live the Golden Rule, why?
4. Who are the folks the hardest not to judge? Are they ones hardest to love too?