

## Matthew 7 on 7 Choices

We certainly face many choices in life, some inconsequential and some momentous. What we find from our Savior in Matthew 7 provides that the choices to be made have eternal implications. In other words, those of regard to spiritual life or death. Also, we simply infer that these choices to be made are those of purely right and wrong.

There is a choice of:

### **1. Judging or not judging. (vss. 1-3)**

The judging here is a rash, censorious, negative, criticism of others. Many often times get rash or censorious judging confused with righteously judging a soul. They seek the easy life, where they face no consequences nor criticism and can conclude, that they are always in the right. However, this does not speak to the subject of God's righteous judgment. This is about being helpful (rather than hurtful) out of a pure heart and life, (i.e. righteous and Biblical judging).

### **2. Walking in the strait and narrow, or the wide and broad way. (vss. 13-14)**

At the age of accountability, a soul finds themselves at the fork in the road of submission and obedience to God, or to the god of this world, Satan (1 Jn. 3:10). Should we choose unwisely, the plea of the Lord is to let His word shine light to our path, to return to the fork, from the path of darkness in sin and make again a choice now based upon knowledge and in faith, trusting Him to continually guide us.

### **3. Being a false teacher or a true teacher. (vs. 15)**

Perhaps James helps us here where he writes, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." (James 3:1). We should not be discouraged to teach, but rather the exhortation found in James, is to contemplate and monitor our teaching and preaching, lest we are led astray and speak those things contrary to Biblical truths.

### **4. Producing good or evil fruit. (vss. 16-19)**

God and men know us by the fruits we bear. If we lack in our dutiful work in the kingdom of God, it can be observed by our brethren and most certainly is seen by the Almighty. Too, if we are active, involved and exhaust every ounce of energy into righteous work, we are praised by brethren and rewarded by the Father's blessings, both temporal and eternal.

### **5. Being obedient or disobedient. (vss. 21-23)**

Again, our Lord speaks on our willing submission to divine authority or our willful neglect of adherence. He says it is those who practice lawlessness whom He will send away. Although they profess His name, claim faith in Him, they are bound in iniquity and therefore separated from Him. (cf. Is. 59:1-2; 1 Jn. 3:4)

### **6. Building you life on a solid foundation, or one that is not solid. (vss. 24-27)**

The things of earthly significance fade, lose shape, color and life. Mortal men's words, although recorded in annuals, likewise are tossed in the waves over time and disregarded. To what do we attribute our success? Is it on those things we know are only temporary, or to those things which stand eternal? Men die, flowers wither, wood rots, and the only oldest mementos we have of ages past are in

stone. Christ is the already laid cornerstone from before man's existence and still remains to today and always will be. Upon what is our life built?

***7. Teaching with authority, or as the Scribes. (vs. 29)***

When we speak, God commands that we do so according to His utterances. (1 Pet. 4:11). Examine your speech. Is it seasoned with salt from His word to give flavor to our conversations and bring glory to His name? Or is it riddled with bitter worldly words which exalt that which is unbecoming of a saint in the Lord's presence? Does our speech lead souls closer to Christ, or further away?

Matthew's gospel account, chapter 7 gives us 7 choices which find application not only in our general lives, but each day we are blessed. Consider them, pray about them, that you and we all as brethren, continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 3:18).

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