

2/15/26

**Sermon Title:** Be a Doer of the Heavenly Father's Will

**Preacher:** Pastor Kim Soonbae

**Scripture Passage:** Matthew 7:1-29

### **Judging Others**

<sup>7</sup> "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

<sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

<sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

<sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

<sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

<sup>6</sup> "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

### **Ask, Seek, Knock**

<sup>7</sup> "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

<sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

<sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

### **The Narrow and Wide Gates**

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

<sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

### **True and False Prophets**

<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

<sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

<sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

### **True and False Disciples**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’

<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

### **The Wise and Foolish Builders**

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

<sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

<sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

<sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

This chapter is the concluding section of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

Jesus continues teaching His disciples about the kind of life that citizens of the kingdom of God ought to live on this earth.

He continues to speak about the attitude of life that embodies a “greater righteousness.”

And He tells us to hear the Word and put it into practice in obedience.

### Teaching on Judgment

Jesus provides wisdom for how the community of God’s kingdom, while pursuing perfection, should deal with the faults and mistakes of brothers and sisters.

Jesus tells His disciples not to expose the shortcomings of their brothers and sisters in order to elevate themselves.

He says that if anyone judges another person, they themselves will be judged by the very standard they use to evaluate others.

<sup>1</sup> “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

<sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

By the judgment you pronounce, you will be judged” refers to both the judgment that comes from God and the criticism that comes from people.

Those who belong to the community of God’s kingdom are brothers and sisters who have God as their heavenly Father.

Therefore, their relationships must be grounded in love.

They must not judge or condemn other brothers and sisters.

Condemnation belongs to God.

If someone criticizes and condemns a brother, he himself will be condemned by the same standard.

Jesus says that it is absurd to evaluate the actions of others while one's own faults are as large as a plank.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

<sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

<sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

If there is a plank in your eye, you cannot see things clearly.

In order to see your brother rightly, you must first cleanse your own eye.

Here, “brother” refers to a member of the community of God's kingdom—that is, the community of the new covenant.

The “judging” that Jesus speaks of here does not mean discernment or proper evaluation.

It refers to the act of pointing out another person's faults in order to make oneself appear better within a relationship.

Failing to recognize one's own serious problems while fixating on a neighbor's minor faults is self-deception and hypocrisy.

For a community to grow and mature, it is sometimes necessary to correct one another's shortcomings.

However, this must be approached with great care.

One must first examine oneself and then proceed with a compassionate heart.

Yet if the brother who has been corrected refuses to change and instead responds with hostility, Jesus says that no further counsel should be given.

<sup>6</sup> “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

It is God's will for the community to bear the fruit of a "greater righteousness." In order to fulfill this will, we must listen to one another's counsel within the community, accept correction in our actions, and grow together.

The disciples are walking on that path.  
They strive toward perfection, yet they are still imperfect.  
Therefore, they need the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells us to trust God, who loves us more than we love ourselves and desires to give us what is best.

He calls us to ask, seek, and knock.

And He promises that God will answer.

<sup>7</sup> "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

<sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

<sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Furthermore, Jesus says, "Do to others what you would have them do to you."

It is a call to love others as you love your own body.

<sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

'The Law and the Prophets' refers to the Old Testament.

Therefore, keeping the Golden Rule is the fulfillment of the Old Testament and a life that pursues the 'greater righteousness.'

Jesus presents the path that His disciples must take.

He tells them to enter through the narrow gate and says that it is the gate that leads to life.

<sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

<sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find

Although the narrow gate leads to a narrow and difficult road, it is a path that the disciples must pass through in order to fulfill the will of God.

In this world, many hardships will follow those who follow the Lord.

Yet the Holy Spirit will be with them and help them, and in the end they will be able to pass through that road.

Through those sufferings, the disciples are sanctified.

They come to know the Lord more deeply, build a firm bond with Him, and grow into people who belong to God.

Then Jesus tells His disciples to discern between true prophets and false prophets.

<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

<sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

<sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Because false prophets appear in sheep’s clothing, it is not easy to discern their true identity.

They disguise themselves as sheep and proclaim about God and His will as if they were true prophets.

However, their real purpose is merely to use the church—the community of God’s kingdom—as a means for their own benefit.

Jesus tells us not to be deceived by their hypocrisy, but to recognize them by the fruit of their lives.

True prophets will surely bear good fruit in their lives.

These days, the church is facing criticism from the world.

Because of repeated moral failures among religious leaders, the world has come to the point of being concerned about the church.

We must take Jesus' words deeply to heart and cultivate the spiritual discernment needed to choose faithful and upright leaders.

Jesus calls us to be those who do the will of our heavenly Father.

Faith without works is dead faith.

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'

<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Jesus says that those who do not do the will of the heavenly Father are workers of lawlessness, and that they will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus compares the one who hears His words and obeys them to a wise man who built his house on the rock, and the one who hears His words but does not put them into practice to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

<sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

<sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

With this, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount.

The crowds respond with great amazement at His authoritative teaching.

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

<sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Jesus’ authority was entirely different from that of the scribes, whose authority was derived from tradition.

Unlike the scribes, Jesus’ authority was inherent within Himself.

The crowds were amazed at His authority in teaching, yet they still did not fully understand who He was.

In the following chapters (Matthew 8–9), His authority is further demonstrated through His miracles.

Then in chapter 10, He gives that authority to His disciples, and after His resurrection, He declares that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him and sends them out.

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

Through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly shows what kind of life the people of the kingdom of God are to live.

It is a life that pursues a greater righteousness; a life of sincere devotion rather than hypocrisy; a life of mercy and love rather than judgment and condemnation; a life that chooses the narrow gate; a life proven by its fruit; and a life of obedience that hears the Word and puts it into practice.

A true disciple is one who examines himself in the light of the Word, repents, and responds with obedience.

Living a life of obedience to God's Word is not easy.

At times we may stumble, become discouraged, and shed tears through hardship.

Yet it is the path we must walk in order to be true disciples of Christ.

And on that path, the Holy Spirit will be with us.

Let us make a renewed commitment today:

to seek not human applause but the will of God;

to prove our faith not by outward zeal but by the fruit we bear;

and to stand firm with unshakable faith in a shaking world.

May you live each day—in your home, in the church, and in the world—as true disciples who carry out the will of your heavenly Father.