

THE · SERMON · ON · THE · MOUNT

DO NOT

... be a hypocrite | ... be anxious | ... judge

Three Studies in Matthew

For individuals, small groups, and one to one

Welcome to Matthew 6 & 7, “Do Not ...”

This series of studies accompanies the short teaching series in Matthew 6 and 7 at Trinity Mount Barker in August and September, 2017.

These studies are intended to be done before the sermon on the same passage, although of course, you can do them any way that is helpful to you!

If you're using these studies in a **Bible Study Group**, try to make sure you've read the passage and done your preparation before you meet. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but also to the other members of your group.

If you're a **Bible Study Group Leader** please don't feel that your group needs to answer every question in every study. With such a wide variety of ages and personalities in our church, we have included a number of different types of questions, including some which reflect on the same points, just from slightly different perspectives. Please choose the questions most appropriate for your group.

If you're doing these studies **individually**, why not let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with prayer, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommended Reading:

The Sermon on the Mount. D A Carson.

The Sermon on the Mount, Bible Speaks Today, John Stott.

Matthew. Tyndale New Testament Commentary. R T France

Previous TMB Talks on these passages

Christians shouldn't judge, just accept Matthew 7:1 – 19

<http://mytmb.me/csja16>

Just a little bit more would be enough. Matt 6:19-34 & 1 Tim 6:6-10

<http://mytmb.me/jalb16>

1. Who would you say is the most “religious” person you know?

2. Have you ever felt like a hypocrite? What made you feel that way?

3. Why do you think we find hypocrisy so distasteful?

Read Matthew 6:1 – 18

4. What aspect of God’s character and work is to shape the way we relate to others?

5. Why do we feel the need to do our good deeds in a way that others can see?

6. What patterns for prayer are established in these verses?

7. Which of the phrases in the prayer do you find the most difficult to pray?

8. Why?

9. Write the Lord's Prayer in your own words.

10. How else can we use Jesus' prayer to shape our own private and corporate prayers?

11. Besides the position for prayer that Jesus condemns in verse 5, how can our prayers become hypocritical?

12. How does the Lord's prayer help guard us against hypocrisy?

13. In what ways are children of the Father to be different from hypocrites or pagans?

14. How do Jesus' condemnation of hypocrisy, his instructions on prayer, and his warning in verses 14 & 15 fit together?

15. What kind of "religious" works do people like to be known for today?
How do Jesus' words here help us guard against doing them in order to be seen by others?

1. What is the least satisfying way you have ever spent money?

Why was that expense so disappointing?

2. Why do we often desire earthly treasures more than heavenly ones?

Read Matthew 6:19 - 34

3. What is the warning and the assurance given in these verses?

4. What are the characteristics of the life of someone who is serving money?

5. Why do we often think we *can* serve both God and money?

6. What is the link between money and worrying about life?

7. What does it mean to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness (v 33)?

8. What are the treasures we can store up in heaven?

9. In what ways can we diagnose where our heart (and therefore our treasure) is?

10. What might be some of the early warning signs that we are trying to "serve two masters" (v 24)?

11. How does your choice of treasure influence the things that concern you?

12. In Luke 18:24 Jesus says, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" Why is it so hard and who do you think are "the rich" to whom Jesus is referring?

13. How does someone gripped by the grace of God view and treat money differently to a non-Christian?

14. What enables a follower of Jesus to learn not worry about the things of this life?

- 1.** If you could have one prayer answered right now, what would you pray for?

- 2.** Do you think others you know would pray for something similar or different?

- 3.** Can you recall a time when you were judged unfairly? How did you feel? React?

Read Matthew 7:1 - 12

- 4.** What's the picture of the relationship between Christian people that is implied or made explicit in this passage?

- 5.** What are some of the areas where we are most at risk of not seeing our own faults or sinfulness?

- 6.** Why do we often fail to see the sin in our own lives, but can easily discern failings in others?

7. If the plank in our own eye represents the sin that God sees in us, how should we think about correcting brothers and sisters in Christ?

8. How then should we respond when we observe sin in the life of other Christians?

9. How is Jesus' instruction in verse 6 a useful corrective to an unthinking application of "do not judge"?

10. What is the danger in not making use of our critical faculties when we observe the conduct and speech of others?

11. In which areas do you think we need to be more discerning as we observe and listen to others?

12. What is the solution to avoiding judgmentalism?

13. What is the basis for the seemingly open-ended promises about prayer that Jesus makes here?

14. How does Jesus' teaching on prayer fit with what he's saying about hypocrisy and judgmentalism?

15. In what way is "do not judge" only part of the instruction to followers of Jesus?

16. What principles for living as citizens of God's kingdom does Jesus establish in these verses?



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