



Fidelity

Let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:10

12 November 2023

How to Acquire a First-hand Knowledge of the Bible



In my years of ministry, I have come across individuals and churches who are passionate about the truth. Yet, instead of going to the Bible, these individuals rely on brotherhood materials, by people they regard as faithful brethren. To me, this is no different from what certain churches are doing with their creed books.

Jesus warns us in Matthew 15:9, *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

The Bible is very clear in encouraging us to go to the *fountain source - directly to the word of God*. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* - 2 Timothy 2:15.

When we study the word of God, and use it as the foundation of our faith, we will grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. And as we become firmly rooted, we become more noble, like the Bereans of Acts 17:10-11 - *"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*

The Bible declares in Romans 3:4, *"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar."*

There is no shortcut to understanding the word of God. It requires much study. It demands a teachable heart open to the Spirit's pleading. Most of all, we need to have the integrity to examine our lives and adjust it in accordance

to the word of God. When I was growing up, I observed how my grandmother fed my baby sister. She would take a spoonful of porridge, chew it in her mouth, then spew it on the spoon and feed that mush to her. Christians who never read the word of God for themselves and rely on others to tell them what God teaches are like such an infant.

The Bible is not hard to understand. The more you read it, the Bible says that you will be more skillful with it. *"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* Hebrews 5:14.

Insights will come as you return again and again to the word.

In today's Internet world, it is easy for anyone to google the web and find religious teachings that agree with any and every viewpoint. Without reading the Bible and owning a first hand knowledge of the Bible, we not only do not know what the Bible teaches, but become easy prey for false teachers as Ephesians 4:14-15 so well illustrates - *"that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him..."*



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Outline

I. WHO ARE IN THE KINGDOM

Their blessedness - Matthew 5:3-12

Their relationship with the world - Matthew 5:13-16

II. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM

In contrast to the Law - Matthew 5:17-48

In relation to God - Matthew 6:1-34

In relation to man - Matthew 7:1-12

1. Judgment

2. Ask, Seek, Knock

III. HOW TO ENTER THE KINGDOM

The beginning of the way - Matthew 7:13-14

The progress along the way - Matthew 7:15-20

The end of the way - Matthew 7:21-27

Introduction

So much ill-will in the world today

Everyone and every group want to assert their views

Bleeding ground for all kinds of discontent and conflict in the world today

Romans 12:16 *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Matthew 7:1-6

Introduction

Don't judge, so that you won't be judged.

For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.

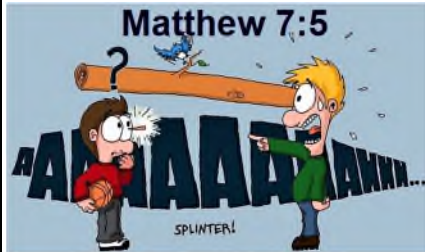
Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how will you tell your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye;' and behold, the beam is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.

Don't give that which is holy to the dogs, neither throw your pearls before the pigs, lest perhaps they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Don't Judge

Don't judge, so that you won't be judged.

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye?



Don't Judge


1. *So that you won't be judged.*
2. *With whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged*
3. *With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.*
4. *Do not be a hypocrite!*
5. *Examine yourself first. First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.*

Don't Judge

Don't give that which is holy to the dogs, neither throw your pearls before the pigs

Cannot appreciate - lest perhaps they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.





Sermon Mount


Introduction
Matthew 7:1-6
Don't Judge

What the Bible Says

Important subject – Bible has much to say

Romans 2:1-3 - *You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?*

Luke 6:37-38 - *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*



Sermon Mount

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Romans 14:1-13

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters.

One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.



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Romans 14:1-13

Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord...

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat...

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.



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Conclusion

John 7:24 *Don't judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*

Romans 12:19 *Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord."*

1 Corinthians 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each man will get his praise from God.*

John 21:21-22 *Peter seeing him, said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you? You follow me."*



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Next Week:
 Ask – Seek - Knock



Call to Worship
 Scripture Reading
 Opening Prayer
 Congregational Singing
 Communion & Giving
 Exhortation
 Invitation
 Announcements
 Closing Prayer

Go then, and make disciples of all the nations...

Matthew 28:19




5 weeks away

BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Good attendance at our first morning worship; Ramesh calling the congregation to worship; Richard Phang and Kumar were among the visitors (Nancy and Siew Hoon); Thanks to the Alfred Poons, we were able to stay back a little longer to enjoy nasi lemak and mee goreng; We appreciate all members coming at 10am for the Care teams before the worship - as a result, our men's Care team enjoyed the largest attendance to date.

