

THE WAY OF THE KING

A STUDY OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

— MATTHEW 7:1-12 —

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“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

— vv 1-5

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

— 2 Samuel 12:1-4

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

— 2 Samuel 12:5-6

Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”

— 2 Samuel 12:7

“We find it so easy to turn a microscope on another person’s sin while we look at ours through the wrong end of a telescope! We use some strong term for someone else’s sin but a euphemism for our own. We easily spot a speck of phoniness in another because we have a logjam of it in our own lives. Furthermore, we especially hate our own faults when we see them in others. Wrath toward the speck in someone else’s life may come from the suppressed guilt over the same massive sin in our own lives. Log-toting speck inspectors are hypocrites, says Jesus. They do not care at all about the speck in the other person’s eye. All they really care about is building up themselves in their own eyes.”

— Kent Hughes

“What is fundamentally at stake, I think, is attitude. This is clearly seen in that particular kind of critical spirit found in the gossip. It is not always the case that what the gossip says is malicious; what he says might, in fact, be strictly true. But it is always the case that he says it maliciously; that is, he speaks without any desire to build up, or any real concern to instill discernment. He wants only to puff himself up, or to be heard, or to enhance his own reputation, or to demean the person about whom he is speaking.”

— D.A. Carson

“There is a universe of difference between being discerningly critical and hypercritical. A discerning spirit is constructive. A hypercritical spirit is destructive. The person with a destructive, overcritical spirit revels in criticism for its own sake...The critical spirit is like the carrion fly that buzzes with a sickening hum of satisfaction over sores, preferring corruption to health.”

— Kent Hughes

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— vv 1-5

“If we sit as an authority in judgment upon others, we have no right to complain if we are judged by that very standard. It is quite fair, it is quite just, and we have no ground whatsoever for complaint. We claim we have this knowledge; and if we have that knowledge we must show it by living up to it. By the claim that I myself make, I myself shall be judged. If, therefore, I am careful in my scrutiny of other people and their lives, that very standard comes back upon myself, and I have no ground at all for complaining. The answer to me if I complain would be this: You knew it, you were able to exercise it with regard to others, why did you not exercise it in your own case? It is a very surprising and alarming thought. There is nothing I know of that is so likely to deter us from the sinful practice of condemning others and from that foul and ugly spirit that delights in doing so.”

— Martin Lloyd-Jones

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!*

— Psalm 139:23-24

“The heart that has tasted the Lord’s grace and forgiveness will always be restrained in its judgment of others. It has seen itself deserving judgment and condemnation before the Lord, and yet, instead of experiencing his burning anger, has tasted his infinite mercy.”

— Sinclair Ferguson

*“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs,
lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.*

— vs 6

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what is holy, and
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— vs 6

*“Again, the
kingdom of heaven
is like a merchant
in search of
fine pearls, who,
on finding one
pearl of great
value, went and
sold all that he had
and bought it.”*

— Matthew 13:45

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

— vv 7-11

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

— Luke 11:13

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

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“God’s approval rests on the person who is poor in spirit. Such a person, recognizing his personal spiritual bankruptcy and his personal inability to conform to kingdom perspectives, will be eager to ask God for grace and help, impatient to seek the blessings only God can give, delighted to knock at the portals of heaven. He also recognizes that salvation now — and the full richness of that salvation in the consummated kingdom — depends on God’s grace, God’s free unmerited favor. This man rejoices to read Jesus’ invitation to ask, seek, and knock. He comes as a humble petitioner, seeking pardon and grace.”

— D.A. Carson

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

— vv 7-11

*Thou art coming to a King;
Large petitions with thee bring;
For his grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.*

— John Newton

*“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them,
for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

— vs 12

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— vs 12

*“Do not think that
I have come to
abolish the Law
or the Prophets;
I have not come
to abolish them
but to fulfill them.”*

— Matthew 5:17

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