
Day One – Recap of Matthew 6.19-34

We can all use a little bit more Bob Dylan in our lives. If you ever get the opportunity, check out his albums *Saved* and *Slow Train Coming*. They are, without a doubt, some of the best Christian music ever made.

“Gotta Serve Somebody”

*You may be an ambassador to England or France,
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance,
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world,
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls*

*But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.*

*You might be a rock 'n' roll addict prancing on the stage,
You might have drugs at your command, women in a cage,
You may be a businessman or some high-degree thief,
They may call you Doctor or they may call you Chief*

*You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk,
You may be the head of some big TV network,
You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame,
You may be living in another country under another name*

*You may be a construction worker working on a home,
You may be living in a mansion or you might live in a dome,
You might own guns and you might even own tanks,
You might be somebody's landlord, you might even own banks*

*You may be a preacher with your spiritual pride,
You may be a city councilman taking bribes on the side,
You may be workin' in a barbershop, you may know how to cut hair,
You may be somebody's mistress, may be somebody's heir*

*Might like to wear cotton, might like to wear silk,
Might like to drink whiskey, might like to drink milk,
You might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread,
You may be sleeping on the floor, sleeping in a king-sized bed*

*You may call me Terry, you may call me Timmy,
You may call me Bobby, you may call me Zimmy,
You may call me R.J., you may call me Ray,
You may call me anything but no matter what you say*

*You're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody.
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.*

Day Two – Read 7:1-6

Read the following verses: Luke 6:37, 38, 41, 42; Rom. 14:13; 1 Cor. 4:5; James 5:9

What does the command “judge not” not mean?

What does “judge not” mean? (Relate it to the contrasting command that immediately follows in Matthew 7:6 and the later warning concerning false prophets given in Matthew 7:15-20.)

What is the result when we condemn others or adopt a judgmental, or critical attitude?

Day Three Read 7:1-6

Do some research concerning *dogs* and *pigs* during the time this gospel was written?

Who do ‘dogs and pigs’ imply?

(Remember the Bible interprets the Bible. Read the following verses: Phil 3:2; Rev. 22:15; 2 Peter 2:12, 22; 2 Peter 3:1-3.)

What are *pearls* in this context? (Read Matthew 13:46.)

Explain Matthew 7:6.

Day Four – Matthew 7.7-11

Why do you think Jesus teaches about prayer again after He discussed it extensively in chapter 6?

What do you learn about prayer in verse 7 due to the fact the verbs are present imperative (command)?

What does the illustration of the father and son/children teach us about prayer?

Day Five – Matthew 7.12

From The New Bible Commentary:

7:12 The golden rule (see Lk. 6:31). This verse concludes and summarizes Jesus' instructions for living as a disciple. *The Law and the Prophets* picks up the issue from which we began in 5:17. For another summary of the law and the prophets see 22:37–40. Other teachers had given a similar instruction in the negative form, do not treat others as you would not wish to be treated; Jesus' positive form is more demanding.

From The MacArthur Study Bible:

7:12 do also to them. Versions of the "Golden Rule" existed before Christ, in the rabbinic writings and even in Hinduism and Buddhism. All of them cast the rule as a negative command, such as Rabbi Hillel's version, "What is hateful to yourself do not to someone else." Jesus made it a positive command, enriching its meaning and underscoring that this one imperative aptly summarizes the whole gist of the ethical principles contained in the Law and the Prophets.

Why is it so difficult to do unto others as you would have them do to you?

What does this reveal about your heart?

Challenge: I once read a leadership book where the basic premise was 'help others get what they want, then you will get what you want'. Based on what you have learned in the sermon, do you think this is a good guide? Would this be an accurate application to this text? Is this a good motivation for a Christian? Why or why not?

Day Six

If you are looking to go a little bit deeper in your understanding of the text for this week, try one of these resources:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/index.php?action=getBookSections&cid=1&source=1>

<http://www.evangelibrary.org.uk/members/com/nt/jcr/mt/mat-Index.html>

Sermons Transcripts:

Ligon Duncan - http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew_vol_1-2/matthew_vol_1-2/index_Matthew_vol_1-2.html

Audio:

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/14/>

S. Lewis Johnson - http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew_master.html