

# Together with Jesus

## Week 4 - Matthew 7 and 8 - End of the Sermon and continued ministry

Matthew 7:1-6

### Judging Others

Jesus continues with the Sermon on the Mount, explaining what happens when human beings judge one another. Before judging others, Jesus instructs His hearers to judge themselves.

- **It seems ironic, however, that Jesus follows with “judgy” statements in verse 6. How do you think verse 6 connects to what Jesus has been saying about judging?**

Matthew 7:7-12

### Asking God and Giving Gifts

Jesus connects our desire to ask God for gifts with our ability to treat people the way that we want to be treated.

- **Why do you think Jesus connects our desire with our ability here?**

Matthew 7:13-14

### Narrow and Wide Gates

As clear as Jesus is about some points in the sermon, this is somewhat cryptic.

- **What do you think Jesus’ original hearers thought of this statement? How do we interpret it today?**

Matthew 7:15-23

### The Trees and Their Fruits

Jesus warns His hearers about coming false prophets who appear to try to push people away from the truth to the point where they will be unrecognizable to Jesus.

- **What helps you guard against false prophecy and bad theology?**

Matthew 7:24-29

### Rock vs. Sand

Jesus brings the Sermon on the Mount to a close with this teaching about being careful where you build your spiritual house.

- **Why do you think Jesus chooses to end His sermon with this?**

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**Matthew 8:1-17**

### **Many Healings**

Jesus heals many different people, beginning with two absolute outcasts in Jewish society – a leper and a Roman centurion. Matthew points out that this is all to fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy.

- **Who would be considered an outcast in today’s world?**

**Matthew 8:18-27**

### **Tests of Faith**

The faith of Jesus’ followers are tested both by Jesus’ own honest words about what being His disciple means, as well as by the storm at sea that Jesus eventually calms.

- **What tests of faith show up in your life as a disciple today?**

**Matthew 8:28-34**

### **Jesus Casts Out Demons**

Jesus arrives in Gentile territory (notice the presence of unclean/non-kosher pigs) and casts demons out of two men, only to be asked to leave afterwards.

- **Why do you think the townspeople asked Jesus to leave?**

## **Matthew’s Prophetic Focus**

One of the key distinctions of Matthew’s Gospel compared with the other Gospel accounts is that Matthew is very concerned to show explicitly that Jesus is the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies.

### **Red Letter Challenge this week – Lend Expecting Nothing**

This week, take Jesus’ words from Luke 6:35, “Lend, expecting nothing in return” to heart. This week, look for opportunities to simply give something to someone without expecting anything in return. Look for times when you can bless someone who might otherwise feel compelled to pay you back.