“DO TO OTHERS WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU”

Matthew 7:1–12

Key Verse: 7:12

1. What does Jesus command? (1a) What does it mean, practically, to “judge others”? (Jas4:11–12; 5:9; cf. Mt9:10–11; 12:1–2) What instead should we do when others sin? (6:14–15; 18:15,21–22; Jas2:13) What did Jesus say happens to those who judge others? (1b–2a; cf. Ro2:1–3) What can the last part of verse 2 also mean? (5:7)

2. What hyperbole does Jesus use to illustrate the folly of judging others? (3–5; here, “other person” is literally “brother”) What did Jesus teach about how to view our own and others’ sins? What does it mean to “first take the plank out of your own eye”? What wisdom can we find here in helping others spiritually? (5; cf. Gal6:1)

3. To balance his command not to judge, what did Jesus say next? (6) How did Jews view dogs and pigs? Why do you think Jesus used such strong language for some people? (2Pe2:18–22) Why is it not wise to give what is sacred or precious to such people? (6b)

4. Instead of judging, what positive direction does Jesus give us? (7–8) How are these verses a good illustration of what prayer is? How is persistence involved? For what and whom should we be praying? (Jas1:5; 5:13–16; Mt5:44)

5. According to Jesus, how are human parents and God similar? Different? (9–11) How should this encourage us in our prayers?

6. Read verse 12. How does this “Golden Rule” summarize Jesus’ teachings in verses 1–11? Compare verse 12a with 22:39. What fundamental change in our way of thinking does this require? How does practicing verse 12a sum up the Law and the Prophets? (22:37–40; Ro13:8–10)