

The Gospel of Matthew #68**Sermon on the Mount: chapter 7: Climax of instruction & warnings**Overview of Matthew 7:

7:1-12: The danger when you hear these things is to still try to establish your own righteousness. That will lead to 4 feelings:
7:1-5: feel superior by Law → judge everyone

7:6:	feel superior by “Love” → judge no one
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7:7-11	feel hopeless; need enlarge faith
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7:12	feel confused; simplified summary
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7:13-27: Final invitations and warnings by means of 4 contrasts:

7:13-4	2 gates & roads: wide & narrow
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7:15-20	2 kinds of fruit: bad & good
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7:21-23	2 displays of “faith”: simple obedience & flashy miracles
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7:24-27	2 foundations: sand & rock
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Be very careful to know where you are!

THE MOST QUOTED VERSE IN THE BIBLE**Matthew 7:1-6**

Four ways of reacting to Jesus' teaching of chapters 5 & 6:

2. Feel **superior** because you are so “**loving**”: **judge no one**

The most familiar verse in the Bible used to be John 3:16.

Now it is Matt 7:1

Ask 3 Qs:

I. Is this a command to be tolerant?

2 kinds of “tolerance”:

a) respecting one's right to their opinions and living at peace

b) accepting all values, opinions, lifestyles as of equal merit

II. How do we know Jesus did not mean the second?

Because of what He says in

- a) v6
- b) v13
- c) v15
- d) v21-23
- e) v24-27

Look at v6 now and rest later.

III. So what does v6 mean?

It actually involves some significant value judgment!

A. Determine what is “sacred”

The gospel: Matt 13:44

B. Determine who are “dogs” and “pigs”

Eg: Jesus in Lk 23:8-9; Paul in Acts 13:44-51 and 18:5-6;
Titus 3:10-11. Principle: Proverbs 9:8

C. Warning to any disciples who would ignore this

Point: the Gospel radically divides! It always either softens or hardens

- Are you willing to stand for **Truth**?
Contemporary post-modern: **uncertainty = humility**
- Can you do that without coming across judgmental?
II Tim 2:24-26 requires that you are **secure** and do not need to win
- Are you willing to finally **not press** the gospel on those who despise it?
- Do you see the gospel of the grace of Christ as “**sacred**”? A **treasure** (II Cor 4:7) that is most powerful when we sensitively address the **conscience** rather than argue (II Cor 4:1-6)? That is not to be despised, but rather treasured above all else (Mt 13:44)?