

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**MATTHEW 7****Matthew 7**

Matthew seven opens with an admonition to not censoriously judge either other in a harsh or unjust fashion. This is not a warning concerning godly and needed discernment, which the follower of Jesus must have. The instruction, rather, is in relation to uncalled-for meanness and harshness toward each other. It has been said, and observed many times by those who work with the local churches, that the ugliest of all people can be those who name the name of Jesus and hide behind the cloak of religiosity to tear down those who disagree with them. May God save us from that attitude within ourselves and deliver us from those around us who think this way.

The focus then once again shifts to our relationship with the Father, and Jesus talks about the practice of seeking after God.

"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 he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." (vv.7-8)

Those verbs, imperatives, are in the present tense construction, which means we are told by the Lord

Jesus that we are to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking. This, rather, is not for the Father's sake but really for our own. Because as we follow this instruction, we are truly showing what is on our minds and in our thoughts continually. The Lord goes on to give an illustration of the good father who will only give what is best to the children. He exercises judgment and discernment in giving gifts that are good for us and will not harm or hurt us.

Jesus further states that the way of following Him and entering into the way of the LORD that leads to heaven is by a narrow entrance; few there will be that will find it. That is in comparison to the vast numbers who will never know the love of God by following Jesus, His son.

Finally, one of the saddest of all verses in this passage is verses 21-23, where the Lord warns that not everyone who names the name of Jesus will be granted entrance into heaven and His eternal presence. Many will say, Lord, Lord, but did not know Him or were alone giving lip service to Him while on earth. With their mouths, they said one thing, and with their disobedient lives, they said another thing. God knows.



ON THE WAY

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear Lord Jesus, please search my heart today and forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteous thoughts and deeds. Help me to seek you with all my heart continually. Grant that I might live a life that will cause you one day to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant..." Amen