

Series: Sermon on the Mount
Building Healthy Relationships
Matthew 7:1-12

Introduction

One of the major themes of the Sermon on the Mount emphasizes the difference between being religious and having a relationship with God. Jesus arranges this teaching around the topic of building key relationships. He teaches about citizenship in God's kingdom, the believer's relationship to the world, our relationship to the Law, to God, and money. Now he talks about our relationship with one another.

1. If you want to succeed in relationships, you have to be able to get along with other _____!
2. In Chapter 7, Jesus gives us several keys to building _____ relationships.
3. The whole teaching of Chapter 7 hinges on verse 12, which we have come to know as "the golden _____."
4. God wants us to inscribe the Golden Rule on our _____ and act upon it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I. Do not judge (7:1,2)

5. In verses 1 and 2, Jesus says, "Judge not, that you be not _____."
6. Jesus is not saying we don't need _____, courts, or law enforcement.
7. According to scripture, God _____ that governments are to regulate society and administer appropriate punishment for offenses against society.
8. Jesus does not say we shouldn't evaluate the _____ and actions of people.
9. Jesus never opposed taking a stand on _____ issues.
10. Jesus makes it clear that it is important to _____ those who are operating erroneously.

11. Good friends sharpen each other with their _____.
12. Jesus is teaching about not having a _____ or condemning spirit.
13. It is not our job to _____ people even though we are called upon to correct them.
14. The scribes and Pharisees elevated themselves as righteous and used the law to browbeat the people into _____.
15. They replaced God's standard of _____ with their own standards.
16. Jesus does not forbid judgment of someone's behavior or beliefs but warns us not to develop a critical or bitter _____.
17. We are not to focus our attention on how others have offended us but on how we can _____ the situation.
18. We cannot let the offenses of others give us the right to reject them or _____ against them.
19. Jesus challenges us to invest positive and loving action in people even when they're in the _____!
20. If you want to build healthy relationships, you've got to learn how to say difficult and corrective things in _____ and loving words.
21. It often only takes _____ person to begin to turn things around from the negative to the positive.

II. Log and speck (7:3-5)

22. When we experience conflict, our natural response causes us to focus on the other person's _____ and faults.
23. The counsel Jesus suggests is to focus on changes _____ need to make to be a better person.
24. You are responsible for what you can _____.
25. It doesn't matter who started it; what matters is how you _____ the problem.

26. Stay positive and express _____ in love and service to others.
27. When we feel _____ or challenged, we often instinctively move to a self-righteous, self-justifying position.
28. When you know that God has your best interests at heart, you find the _____ to see and admit your sins and shortcomings to yourself, to God, and even to others.
29. When we are honest and forthright with ourselves, we can clearly see to take the _____ out for someone else.
30. Rebuke and correction are still an essential part of the _____ development process.

III. Pearls before swine (7:6)

31. Putting a pearl necklace on a _____ doesn't do much good!
32. _____ have no appreciation for the value or your intent of the gifts you shower upon them.
33. Some people are so _____-absorbed that they are not interested in sharing a healthy relationship.
34. You cannot make a person _____.

IV. Ask, seek and knock (7:7-11)

35. Jesus' point is that if we want an effective and meaningful relationship with others, we first need to develop a healthy relationship with _____.
36. God is the only one who can supply you with enough _____ to meet your deepest needs and cause you to see your eternal value.
37. Jesus can still create within your heart a resurrection of new life and new energy and renewed _____.
38. Only God can supply you with the discernment and _____ you need to be your true self and love others wisely.

Conclusion

39. The keyword in maintaining healthy relationships is _____.
40. As we talk to God each day, we grow in _____ and wisdom and build a strong and powerful relationship with God.
41. When you develop a healthy relationship with Christ, it dissolves any hint of a _____ spirit within you.
42. Authentic love is not blind to the _____.
43. Genuine love is not judgmental; but it is _____!

Do you need some healthy relationships in your life? Do you have any room in your heart for making some improvements, or do you see others as the problem? Are you looking to Christ for ways to improve your own attitudes and behaviors? Do you pray, "God change me, or God change them!" People are the most valuable resource on the planet, and how you treat others really does matter to God.

ANSWERS:

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|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. People | 24. Correct |
| 2. Healthy | 25. Resolve |
| 3. Rule | 26. Humility |
| 4. Hearts | 27. Threatened |
| 5. Judged | 28. Courage |
| 6. Governments | 29. Speck |
| 7. Ordained | 30. Character |
| 8. Behavior | 31. Pig |
| 9. Moral | 32. Pets |
| 10. Correct | 33. Self |
| 11. Words | 34. Change |
| 12. Critical | 35. Him |
| 13. Condemn | 36. Grace |
| 14. Submission | 37. Purpose |
| 15. Righteousness | 38. Wisdom |
| 16. Spirit | 39. Balance |
| 17. Improve | 40. Faith |
| 18. Retaliate | 41. Critical |
| 19. Wrong | 42. Truthful |
| 20. Positive | |
| 21. One | |
| 22. Offenses | |
| 23. You | |