

Sermon on the Mount

Building Healthy Relationships

Matthew 7:1-12

Introduction

If you want to succeed in relationships, you have to be able to get along with other people. Wisdom and skill in this area are critical! Most of us want to experience the blessing of having a healthy, close relationship. We also need to know how to avoid damaging and destructive relationships. Jesus gives us the wisdom and insight to succeed in these areas.

1. The whole teaching of Chapter 7 hinges on verse 12, which we have come to know as "the _____ rule."
2. God would rather that we inscribe it on our _____ and act upon it.

I. Do Not Judge

3. According to scripture, God ordained that governments are to regulate _____ and administer appropriate punishment for offenses against _____.
4. Jesus also does not say we shouldn't _____ people's behavior and actions.
5. Jesus never opposed taking a stand on _____ issues.
6. Sometimes, you must take a stand and make _____ decisions.
7. Jesus also makes it clear that it is important to _____ those who are operating erroneously.
8. He is talking about having a critical or condemning _____.

9. It is not our job to _____ people even though we are called upon to correct them.
10. The scribes and Pharisees replaced God's standard of righteousness with their _____ standards.
11. He is warning us not to develop a critical or _____ spirit.
12. We are not to focus on how others have offended us but on how we can improve the _____.
13. A critical spirit will usually be _____ or, as Jesus says, "that ye be not judged."
14. Jesus challenges us to invest positive and loving action in people even when they're in the _____!
15. You must also learn to express _____ for the favors and kindness you receive from others.
16. It often only takes _____ person to begin to turn things around from the negative to the positive.

II. Log and Speck

17. It's easier to turn the tables on the other person rather than take personal _____.
18. Jesus suggests that _____ focus on changes _____ need to make to be a better person.
19. It doesn't matter who started the conflict; how you _____ the problem is what matters.
20. The quickest way for that to happen is to stay positive and express _____ in love and service to others.

21. When you know that God has your best interests at heart, no matter how wrong you have been, you find the _____ to see and admit your sins and shortcomings to yourself, God, and others.
22. When we are honest and forthright with ourselves, we can clearly see to take the _____ out for someone else.
23. Rebuke and correction must be offered humbly and for the person's _____, not out of defensiveness, to deflect criticism, or in retaliation.

III. Pearls Before Swine

24. Some people are so self-absorbed that they are not interested in sharing a _____ relationship with you.
25. They will consistently and deliberately use your attempts at friendship only to gain an _____ for themselves.
26. We need to recognize that people can _____ and sometimes do.

IV. Ask, Seek, Knock

27. If we want an effective and meaningful _____ with others, we must first develop a healthy _____ with Him.
28. _____ is the only one who can supply you with enough grace to meet your deepest needs and cause you to see your eternal value.

Conclusion

29. The keyword in maintaining healthy relationships is _____.

30. God never fails to hear or respond to our _____, although He may choose to give us a better answer than we thought to ask for.

31. Genuine love is not judgmental; it is _____!

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. golden | 12. situation | 23. benefit |
| 2. hearts | 13. reciprocated | 24. healthy |
| 3. society | 14. wrong | 25. advantage |
| 4. evaluate | 15. gratitude | 26. change |
| 5. moral | 16. one | 27. relationship |
| 6. unpopular | 17. responsibility | 28. God |
| 7. correct | 18. you | 29. balance |
| 8. spirit | 19. resolve | 30. prayers |
| 9. condemn | 20. humility | 31. truthful |
| 10. own | 21. courage | |
| 11. bitter | 22. speck | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Jesus challenges us to invest positive and loving action into people even if they're in the wrong! Has anyone wronged you? How did you respond?
2. We must learn to express gratitude for the favors and kindness we receive from others. Has someone shown you a favor or shown you kindness that you need to thank? Do others often hear encouraging words from you?
3. Do you need more healthy relationships in your life? Do you have room in your heart for improvement? Do you look to Christ for ways to improve your attitudes and behaviors?