

**INTRODUCTION**

- \* "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew" ... Matthew was a Jewish man writing about the Jewish Messiah to a Jewish audience.
- \* The Message of John and Jesus was the same: "Repent (*metanoia* - *change the way you think*) for the kingdom of the Heavens has drawn near!"
- \* Over the past couple of weeks we have been in the section of Matthew's gospel that is commonly referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount." This section of teaching reveals the Standards of the Messianic Kingdom. Jesus (the Messiah) speaks with the authority of a king - The King!
- \* The Standards of the Kingdom are Different and Higher than those of the world. As such, they are also Definitive Standards: you are either serving God or the World; there is no middle ground.
- \* Today, we begin the final section of this sermon. Lord willing, over the next three weeks we will be considering the fact that the Kingdom Standards are also Practical Standards.

**INSTRUCTION****I. A DIFFERENT STANDARD (5:1-16)****II. A HIGHER STANDARD (5:17-48)****III. A DEFINITIVE STANDARD (6:1-34)****IV. A PRACTICAL STANDARD (Matthew 7:1-29)**

*... The Application of this Different, Higher, Definitive Standard should bring discernment.*

**A. Regarding Your Insights (v. 1-12)**

## 1. A CONSIDERATION OF YOUR I \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1-5)

## a. The E \_\_\_\_\_ Against Judging (v. 1-5)

## i. THE C \_\_\_\_\_ NATURE OF JUDGING (v. 1; Psalm 141:1-5; James 4:10-12)

## ii. THE R \_\_\_\_\_ NATURE OF JUDGING (v. 1-2; Romans 2:1-11, 21-23)

\* The Standard You Use

\* The Severity You Use

## iii. THE H \_\_\_\_\_ NATURE OF JUDGING (v. 3-5; Proverbs 11:9; 16:2)

## b. The E \_\_\_\_\_ To Assist Others (v. 5; Proverbs 10:11-14, 19-21, 31-32; 15:1-4, 28)

## 2. A CONSIDERATION OF YOUR A \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6; Proverbs 9:7-9)

## 3. A CONSIDERATION OF YOUR I \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7-11; Proverbs 2:1-9; Proverbs 3:5-7; James 1:5-8)

## a. A Recognition of Your N \_\_\_\_\_

## b. A Recognition of God's P \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. A CONSIDERATION OF YOUR M \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12; Romans 14:13)

**B. Regarding Your P \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13-23; cf. Psalm 1; Proverbs 2:1-15; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15)****C. Regarding Your F \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 24-29; cf. James 1:22-25)****INTROSPECTION**

- \* HOW HIGH OF A VIEW DO YOU HAVE OF YOUR OWN INSIGHTS?
- \* WHEN SHARING YOUR "INSIGHT" WHAT IS YOUR MOTIVATION? ARE YOU MORE INTERESTED IN SHARING WHAT YOU KNOW, OR ASSISTING THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL?
- \* WHEN SHARING YOUR "INSIGHT" IS IT MORE TO HAVE THE OTHER PERSON THINK, AND/OR ACT, LIKE YOU ... OR HOW GOD WOULD HAVE THEM THINK?
- \* IS IT YOUR HABIT TO SEEK GOD'S WISDOM BEFORE YOU SHARE "INSIGHTS" WITH OTHERS?
- \* IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

**INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion**

*It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.*

- \* Read Romans 14, Galatians 6:1-10, and James 4:1-12. Compare and contrast the teaching of these passage with the teaching of Matthew 7:1-12.
- \* How can we as a church body seek apply the balance of "provoking one another" (Hebrews 10) and "judging one another"?

Psalms 141:1-5 <sup>1</sup> A Psalm of David. LORD, I cry out to You; make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. <sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. <sup>3</sup> **Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.** <sup>4</sup> Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies. <sup>5</sup> Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; it shall be as excellent oil; let my head not refuse it. For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

Proverbs 2:1-9 <sup>1</sup> My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, <sup>2</sup> so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup> Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup> if you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup> Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; <sup>7</sup> He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; <sup>8</sup> He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. <sup>9</sup> Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

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Proverbs 3:5-7 <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. <sup>7</sup> **Do not be wise in your own eyes;** fear the LORD and depart from evil.

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Proverbs 10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.

Proverbs 10:13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

Proverbs 10:14 Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

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Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little.

Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom.

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Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out.

Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

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Proverbs 11:9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

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Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Proverbs 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

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Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

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Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.

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Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

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Proverbs 9:7-9 <sup>7</sup> "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. <sup>8</sup> Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. <sup>9</sup> Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.