

II. (Mat 7 NIV) "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. {2} For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. {3} "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? {4} How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? {5} You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. {6} "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces. {7} "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. {8} For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. {9} "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? {10} Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? {11} If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! {12} So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. {13} "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. {14} But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. {15} "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. {16} By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? {17} Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. {19} Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. {20} Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. {21} "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' {23} Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' {24} "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. {25} The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. {26} But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. {27} The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." {28} When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, {29} because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

### III. A New Righteousness requires Eye / I surgery!

- IV. In last week's message, Jesus talked about our eyes: (Mat 6:22-23 NIV) "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. {23} But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!
- A. This week he talks about our need for Eye Surgery. Jesus talks about the eye again. (Mat 7:1-29NIV) "*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. {2} For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. {3} "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? {4} How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the (time there is a plank in your own eye? {5} You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*
- B. The righteousness that Jesus is proclaiming recognizes hypocrisy of judgment. His illustration is so clear; we judge people who have specks in their eyes, and we have a splinter the size of a 2 x 4 sticking out of our eye.
- C. (Luke 6:36-37 NIV) *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. {37} "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*
- D. Warren Wiersbe: The purpose of self-judgment is to prepare us to serve others. Christians are obligated to help each other grow in grace. When we do not judge ourselves, we not only hurt ourselves, but we also hurt those to whom we could minister. The Pharisees judged and criticized others to make themselves

look good. But Christians should judge themselves so that they can help others look good. There is a difference!

E. Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhi. Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 5: I can truthfully say that I am slow to see the blemishes of fellow beings, being myself full of them. And, therefore, being in need of their charity, I have learnt not to judge anyone harshly and to make allowances for defects that I may detect.

F. Oswald Chambers, Studies in the Sermon on the Mount. Christianity Today, Vol. 30, no. 3: There is always one fact more in every life of which we know nothing, therefore Jesus says, "Judge not."

G. People can do the right things with the wrong motives, and people can have the right motives and do the wrong things.

H. In the Community of Faith that Jesus calls the Kingdom of God, we leave the judgment to God.

I. That is part of our Covenant for Unity.

J. You know the old statement, "Whenever you point a finger, there are always four pointing back at you."

#### V. A New Righteousness is the Highest Value!

A. {6} *"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces."*

B. What an odd statement for our 21<sup>st</sup> ears.

C. The people in Jesus' audience, however, knew that it would be sacrilegious to give meat offered to God as a sacrifice and then to give it to the junkyard dogs who scavenged the back alley outside the temple.

D. Most of us here have never fed pigs, but in spite of that it is a pretty good visual of something you wouldn't want to do with something of value.

E. Jesus actually used pearls to describe the value of the Kingdom He is proclaiming (*Mat 13:45-46 NIV*)  
*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. {46} When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."*

F. The kind of righteousness that Jesus is calling us to makes compromise impossible, because our whole value system has been changed and we will not settle for less.

G. We cannot allow ourselves to live among the stray dogs and the pigs any longer.

H. It is not about a self righteousness that can't see the impediment in our own eye, but it is about a new vision for our life.

#### VI. A New Righteousness becomes our Utmost Desire!

A. {7} *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. {8} For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. {9} Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? {10} Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? {11} If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"*

#### VII. A New Righteousness accepts the Highest Challenge!

A. {12} *"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. {13} Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. {14} But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

B. Verse 12 is what is known as the Golden Rule. This statement is contained in other types of Wisdom and Religious sayings.

C. It is known in most cultures, and it is valued.

D. As important as it is to the practice of our faith, it is the fruit of our faith and not the goal.

E.Many have watered down the Gospel into the outward display of the treatment of others. When that is done, Christianity just becomes a Great Suggestion, not Good News about redemption. The New Birth, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that not only convicts of us sin but gives us victory over death, is watered down and we measure ourselves simply by how nice we are.

F.C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. *Christianity Today*, Vol. 30, no. 1: A Christian society is not going to arrive until most of us really want it: and we are not going to want it until we become fully Christian. I may repeat "Do as you would be done by" till I am black in the face, but I cannot really carry it out till I love my neighbor as myself: and I cannot learn to love my neighbor as myself till I learn to love God: and I cannot learn to love God except by learning to obey him. And so, ... we are driven on to something more inward--driven on from social matters to religious matters. For the longest way around is the shortest way home.

G.That's what Jesus is calling us to. The way home is not the wide way, but the narrow way.

H.The Way of the Believer is narrow, challenging, demanding.

I. *Corbet's Couloir (Photo with skiers)*, is an infamous ski run at Jackson Hole, WY, ranked as one of the toughest runs in the U.S. It was recently ranked #4 in the "Top 50 Things ALL Skiers Must Do Before They Die" by *Skiing Magazine*. Corbet's degree of steepness is nearly vertical at the top, creating the need to jump into the couloir, (from the French word meaning "corridor,") The slope then "flattens" to 50 degrees. The overall average steepness is 40 degrees. The width of Corbet's is 40-50 feet within the chute, widening toward the bottom. The vertical drop of Corbet's is 500 feet.

1. My first day with instructor. (*Foggy Photo*)

2. *Clear Photo*

3. (*View from a distance Zoom in*)

4. (*Video*)

J.Jesus tells His followers, anyone can travel the wide road, and frankly most people will opt for that.

K.Why wouldn't you. If it is by Grace that we are saved, then I am free to live any way I want. I am forgiven, I even have an imperfect church that validates me.

L.No, that couldn't be further from the truth.

M.Jesus says if you are really experiencing my Grace, let me call you to the Peak. Let me challenge you.

N.I downloaded my pictures to my computer, and when it is idle it goes into a slide show. And when the picture of Corbet's appears, my pulse elevates, my heart pumps, my lungs start to fill up. I start to daydream about skiing it one day. Even if I don't, I'm not satisfied just skiing green or resting at the base drinking Lattes in the Lodge.

O.This is Jesus' invitation to a right relationship with His Heavenly Father. It understands that salvation is free; but for those who are going to be called disciples, the way is narrow, steep, and rocky; but what a Rush!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### VIII. A New Righteousness is Fruitbearing!

A.{15} *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. {16} By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? {17} Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. {18} A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. {19} Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

B.Frances Bacon, the 16<sup>th</sup> century philosopher wrote,*Leadership*, Vol. 4, no. 1:It is not what men eat, but what they digest that makes them strong; not what we gain, but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach or pray, but what we practice and believe that makes us Christians.

C. We will be judged by our actions. The world is looking for fruit, so when we are barren we are not fulfilling the mission, the vision that Jesus proclaimed.

D. Listen to how radical it is: {20} *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.* {21} *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.* {22} *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'* {23} *Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

## IX. A New Righteousness is built on the Rock!

A. {24} *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* {25} *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.* {26} *But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.* {27} *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."* 28} *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,* {29} *because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

B. I grew up spending a lot of my summers going to New Smyrna Beach.

C. That said, I have had more than my share of sunburns and built quite a few sand castles.

D. One of the problems with building sand castles is the best sand is usually closest to the waves so it is best to begin your castle as the tide is going out.

E. Inevitably, no matter how great or small, how ornate or simple, it is just sand and when the tide rolls in, all of your work simply erodes and is swept back into the sea.

F. The question that Jesus asks us is, on what is your faith built.

G. Moral erosion continues in America and the church is often quick to accept the way of culture. In a report by James Patterson and Peter Kim:

1. 74 percent of Americans will steal from those who won't miss it, and 64 percent will lie for convenience as long as no one is hurt.
2. Most Americans (93 percent) say they alone decide moral issues, basing their decisions on their own experience or whims. Eighty-four percent say they would break the rules of their own religion. And 81 percent have violated a law they felt to be inappropriate.
3. Only 30 percent say they would be willing to die for their religious beliefs or for God. -- Reported in *The Day America Told the Truth* (Prentice Hall, 1991). "To Verify," Leadership.

H. Sadly there are too many Sandcastle Christians, and not enough Built on the Rock.

I. There are too many fruitless trees, barren trees.

X. There are too many who have settled for the wide path, not willing to stand on the edge of the couloirs and take the leap of faith.

XI. Invitation.