

UPPER ROOM SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Living the Life of the Beloved/Belonging: Matthew 5-7

Teacher: Gina Lehrmann

Spring-Summer, 2018

Lesson 19 – (July 22, 2018) Matthew 7:1-29

Lessons from Last Week:

- a. Devotion to God can relieve anxious worry; devotion to mammon exacerbates it.
- b. Clinical depression/anxiety is not a sin; it is a chemical imbalance.
- c. Clinical depression/anxiety can erode your confidence in God's promises, but it cannot negate God's promises, themselves.

Matthew 7:1-6

"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.

- a. **"judge" (krinyte)** – sharp, unjust or unfair criticizing of someone else.
- b. **"the measure"** – a reference to a measuring weight used by merchants to weigh, sell, and/or buy produce. Dishonest merchants often used hollowed out or fake weights to blur the real value of a product.
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #40**: The harshness vs. fairness you use on others will be rendered to you. What goes around _____ around!

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.

- a. **"speck...plank" – (karpos)** – splinter, speck; **(dokos)** – the beam upon which planks of a house rest
- b. **"first take the plank"** – In order to help the other person with a life struggle, or an irritant: bad habit, false belief, some kind of failing – begin with yourself.
- c. **The Beloved Life Principle #41**: Your own bias(es) can blind you to what you need to repent _____ in your own life!
- d. **"you will see clearly to remove the speck"** – to "see clearly" is to discern correctly, so that corrective action can be taken.
 - a. Note that the goal is to help the other person.
 - b. **Colossians 3:16**. *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*
 - c. In the Body of Christ, we share a common responsibility for each other. How might you walk the fine line of admonishing each other, while at the same time, not becoming the 'piety police?'

- i. Considerations in the Ministry of Admonishment:
 1. Check your own motives: are you doing this to help others or is self-interest your driver?
 2. Subject yourself to the scrutiny of someone else's admonishment, i.e. coaching, spiritual direction, etc.
 3. Be fair; be scriptural (by applying the Word properly); be gentle; be firm.
 4. Be certain your information is correct, not based on gossip or slanted bias from someone else.
- d. What if the other person doesn't accept the "teaching and admonishment" you provide?
 - i. Don't take it personally or retaliate.
 - ii. Love him/her and pray for the person.
 - iii. If you are affected by the other person's behavior, you may have to limit your exposure to their poor judgment.
 - iv. Wait for God to act; He doesn't need your help!

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 turn and tear you to pieces.

- a. "dogs...pigs"... "sacred...pearls" – There are some people who adamantly refuse to hear and accept the gospel. Jesus cautions you to be discerning about who is receptive and who is rejecting.
 - a. Those who reject the gospel see no value in it.
 - b. God will work on their hearts in His own way, perhaps to bring them to a more receptive place.

Matthew 7:7-12

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; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

- a. "ask...given" (asking) – The emphasis in these imperatives is: "keep at it!"
- b. "seek...find" (seeking) – The reason for keeping at it is that God will provide!
- c. "knock...door opened" (knocking) – The challenge is to persist and persevere, even when it seems that God is delaying the answer!
 - a. The Beloved Life Principle #42: The desire for immediate gratification often _____ in the way of prayerful patience!

⁹ "Which of you, if your 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.

- a. "bread...stone/fish...snake" – A father loves his son, and in that love, would not consider giving him a stone or a snake (eel) instead of food.

- b. **“though you are evil, know how to give good gifts”** – Referencing “evil” as “stingy” or lacking in generosity, yet knowing how to give good gifts!
- c. **“do to others what you would them do to you”** – the so-called Golden Rule should be the governing principle in making judgments about each other; in admonishing, in prayer, and in gift giving.

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Upcoming Lessons:

- August 5-19:** **“One Week Wonders” (Individual, stand-alone lessons each week)**

- August 26:** **Comfort Dog Ministry Installation: Passing of the Leash (No Upper Room Bible Class)**

- September 2:** **New Series (yet to be determined)**