

Questions

1. Matthew 5:17 and 7:12 serve as bookends to a major section of the Sermon on the Mount. How do these two verses relate to each other? What does Jesus mean by the Law and the Prophets?
2. Are there ways in which the Sermon on the Mount has felt daunting to you?
3. In practical and personal terms, why does it matter that Matthew 7:12 is a positive exhortation and not merely a negative exhortation? What are some ways that this verse challenges you to go beyond a bare minimum of service?
4. How did Jesus emphasize the comprehensive nature of this exhortation? How is your application of this exhortation compounded by the words "whatever you wish (desire)"?
5. Someone who professes faith quotes Matthew 7:7 in a name-it-and-claim-it fashion, urging you to pray harder or with more faith for a pay raise or healing from a sickness. How does all that you've already studied in the Sermon on the Mount inform your understanding of Ask, Seek, and Knock?
6. Read Matthew 7:11. How do Jesus' words help you to pray with persistence about the struggles you are facing? What do you need to be praying about this week?

The King's Manifesto

The Sermon on the Mount

The How and Why of Ask, Seek, and Knock

Matthew 7:7-12

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October 31, 2021

Matthew 7:12 is the conclusion to a major section of the Sermon on the Mount. It exhorts followers of Jesus to a very high calling, while the rest of the passage (7:7-11) shows us how God wants to equip us to answer His call.

Three Parts to the Sermon on the Mount

1. Introduction (5:1-16)
2. Kingdom Exhortations (5:17-7:12)
3. Warnings (7:13-27)

Matthew 7:12 is also known as the Golden Rule. There are three keys to understanding this verse. It is:

1. A Positive Exhortation (DO)

How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him (7:11)?

2. A Comprehensive Exhortation (IN EVERYTHING)

3. A Dependent Exhortation (THEREFORE)

What Matthew 7:7 is NOT, especially within the context of the Sermon on the Mount.

How the Sermon on the Mount informs the praying believers are called to in Matthew 7:7