

*When The Kingdom Comes*  
**“The Smaller Road to a  
Larger Life”**

*The Sermon on the Mount #7*  
Matthew 7:1-14

## INTRODUCTION

The Sermon on the Mount contains passages of rich teaching where we get some familiar phrases including: ‘the golden rule’, ‘casting pearls before swine’, and the ‘narrow road’. As we come across these phrases, we will find that we have some important choices to make in the areas of: 1) how we are to judge others; 2) the role of prayer; 3) how we are to treat others; and 4) the road we choose in life.

### Ice Breaker (Optional – 8 MIN):

What’s the most difficult path you’ve ever hiked? Was it worth it?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

**Q1. Read Matthew 7:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15, Galatians 6:1, Matthew 7:16**

The Lord states “by their fruit” you will recognize false prophets. This is the proper application of judgment. However, what appears to be motivating the judgment in Matthew 7:3-5? What results can we expect if we are so motivated according to v.2? What proper attitudes towards others are encouraged in these scriptures?

**Q2. Read Matthew 7:6, Matthew 10:14, Acts 13:46**

The Bible warns us about the reaction of men who are unwilling to accept God’s word. What should be your response if your attempts to share the gospel are rejected? Do you think these verses release you from an obligation to approach unbelievers who might reject you?

**Q3. Read Matthew 7:7-8, Jeremiah 29:13,**

God’s willingness to respond to us is overwhelmingly evident in this passage. Why do you think He asks us to be persistent in prayer rather than answering our prayers immediately?

**Q4. Read Matthew 7:9-12, Luke 11:13, Matthew 22:37-40**

Jesus summarizes and refers to The Law and The Prophets here when he gives us what has been called The Golden Rule. What is the “good

gift” given to us by God? What is the best way we can show love to our neighbor?

**Q5. Read Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6**

There is a “narrow way” that leads to abundant life, and the only other alternative is “broad road” that leads to death. Jesus said, “I am the way”. What does it mean for you to choose to follow Jesus on the narrow way?

## WRAP-UP

We must make choices in our lives governing both our thoughts and our actions towards God and toward people. It may appear to some that Christianity is “narrow minded” and judgmental because of its claim that Jesus is the only way to salvation. They would like to find a “middle road” that allows for compromise. But it is in trusting God and staying on the narrow path, that we will receive abundant life now and eternally with God.

### Memory Verse

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

*Matthew 7:14 NIV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs:*

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*Challenge: Are you taking the ‘broad road’ in some area of your life that you need to get off of? What action will you take?*

**Q1.**

**Read Matthew 7:1-5 in your bible**

**Matthew 7:16 NIV - 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 NIV - 14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.**

**Galatians 6:1 NIV - 1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.**

**Q2.**

**Matthew 7:6 NIV - 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.**

**Matthew 10:14 NIV - 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.**

**Acts 13:46 NIV - 46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.**

**Q3.**

**Matthew 7:7-8 NIV - 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.**

**Jeremiah 29:13 NIV - 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**

**Luke 18:1 NIV - 1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.**

**Q4.**

**Matthew 7:9-10 NIV - 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?**

**Luke 11:13 NIV - 13 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 the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**

**Matthew 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.**

**Matthew 22:37-40 NIV - 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."**

**Q5.**

**Matthew 7:13-14 NIV - 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.**

**John 14:6 NIV - 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

**John 8:12 NIV - 12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

**John 8:31-32 NIV - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**