

God Time Day 1: Know Who to Ask



You've probably noticed that the whole Sermon on the Mount shows this: Jesus cares about the condition of our hearts. And He wants our inward change to have an outward effect. Through rich images, He shows what life looks like for a person who truly follows Him. Now, toward the end of His sermon, Jesus stops giving new teachings and focuses on how we can be sure we are the Father's child.



Read Matthew 7:7-11

⁷Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.

Underline every reference to doors, knocking, and opening.



Keep that in mind and read John 10:9 (ESV).

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Some people incorrectly interpret the passage in Matthew to be about asking God for earthly desires. Instead, Jesus is teaching that He is the door to a saving relationship with God and He will give us what we ask for when we ask according to His desires.

Look again at Matthew 7:7-11. Circle the words *ask*, *seek*, and *knock*. (We can do this through prayer.) Do you see how they progress in intensity?



What does He promise in verses 8 and 11?



Pray, thanking the Father for giving the good gift of Jesus!

“Pray; pray often; make a business of prayer, and be serious and earnest in it.” (Matthew Henry)

God Time Day 2: Know What Will Change



Read Matthew 7:12

Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

(Note: “For this is the Law and the Prophets” means that this teaching is found throughout all of Scripture.)

When we've asked, sought, and knocked, and come to God in faith through Jesus, who is our door, our hearts change. We begin to focus on others... just like Jesus does.

How do you want to be treated?



Who are you not treating that way?

What will you do differently?

God Time Day 3: Know the One Way



Read Matthew 7:13-14

¹³Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction [hell], and there are many who go through it. ¹⁴How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life [heaven], and few find it.

Jesus is the gate (door) and those who believe in Him are invited to enter through His perfection. Why do you think He is a “narrow gate?” Why do only “few find it?”



Jesus is the narrow gate and going through is “difficult” because people reject Jesus out of pride, rebellion, and a desire to sin. Who do you desperately want to see join you on this difficult road? Who are you praying for?

God Time Day 4: Know Who To Listen To



Read Matthew 7:15-20

¹⁵Be on your guard against false prophets [teachers] who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.

¹⁶You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So you'll recognize them by their fruit.

In verses 15 and 16, underline how the false prophets come and how we will recognize them.

Verses 17 and 18 give us some natural laws about trees and fruit that illustrate Jesus' teachings. In order to recognize the Father's children, we can look for their fruit. Then we'll know who to listen to.

The early disciples may have wondered, "If I need to come to the Father through Jesus, and learn more about my Christian faith, who do I listen to? What if someone I trust is a false teacher?"



How did Jesus answer these questions? (Verse 20)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said a bad tree "is bound to give itself away sooner or later. There is no need to go about prying into the hearts of others. All we need to do is wait..."

Do you have fruit for the world to see? What is it? (E.g., purity, generosity, disciples, etc.)



God grows good fruit in us and from us when we follow Him. We must be obedient to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives for God to grow the fruit as He desires. In what way can you be more obedient today?

God Time Day 5: Know the Transformation



Read Matthew 7:21-23

²¹Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?" ²³Then I will announce to them, "I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!"

This passage sounds a little scary. But, like yesterday's passage, if we look closely, we'll see that Jesus sets our minds at ease.

Underline "only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

The underlined words are the key to understanding this. Does doing "the will of my Father" mean doing all the right stuff gets us into heaven? Nope. It can't mean that! This was the exact problem Jesus was addressing. He tells us about people who do churchy-sounding stuff, yet... something is missing.



Look carefully at verse 22. Circle the actions "prophesy, drive out, do." Notice, many call Him "Lord," but they don't stand on Christ's work. They rely on their own actions to save them — not faith.

So, the question is, what's the Father's will? God's will is that we all come to salvation by grace through faith in Christ (2 Peter 3:9). We must repent... which means that we turn away from something, and come to God, through the door of Jesus' perfection (See Days 1 and 3). We can absolutely be sure that we are saved! (See Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10, John 3:16, Acts 16:31)

Those with saving faith are transformed. They produce fruit (like we discussed yesterday) and continue in His will. One day we'll come before Jesus and stand on the righteousness of Christ — not relying on our own actions to save us.



Share your story of transformation with someone today!