

DISCERNMENT

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

MATT 7:1-12

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Affirming God's Judgment

Jn 7:24 "Not by appearances; right judgment."

We do not know motives, but we see behavior.

When we call sinful behavior, "sin" ...

When we uphold marriage, sexuality, and life ...

When we speak God's truth in love about ...

We are not "judging." We are quoting the Judge!

Keys to the Kingdom

Introduction	Prayer - 6:5-15
Attitude - 5:1-12	Self-Denial - 6:16-18
Influence - 5:13-16	Investment - 6:19-24
Self-Control - 5:17-30	Priority - 6:25-34
Faithfulness - 5:31-37	Discernment - 7:1-12
Response-Ability - 5:38-42	Direction - 7:13-14
Love - 5:43-48	Obedience - 7:15-23
Generosity - 6:1-4	Action - 7:24-27

"Dogs" and "Pigs" – 7:6

Vicious, violent, dangerous, unclean animals.

Known by their obvious, outward behavior.

Do not waste holy or precious things on them.

They will not recognize or respect such things.

They will resent you and possibly attack you.

Ps 1:1; Prov 9:8; Mt 10:11-16; Ac 13:46; Phil 3:2

Your Brother – 7:1-5

Admit your critical, fault-finding habits, motives.

Choose your scoop: judgment, mercy. Jas 2:13

Start with the man in the mirror. Jas 1:22-25

Be careful lest you condemn yourself! Rom 2:1-2.

Repent! Remove that log! See *everything* afresh!

Then help your brother tenderly, kindly, carefully.

Your Father – 7:7-11

Ask – receive. Seek – find, Knock – opened.

Incentive to prayer: guaranteed results!

Timid? Hesitant? Cautious? Bold! Confident! Sure!

Analogy: human fathers, though "evil" (sinful) ...

Would not substitute a stone or a snake. "How much more" the perfect Father!

"He who did not spare His own Son ..." Rom 8:32

All People – 7:12

“Therefore ...” as your Father treats you.

Parallel to “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matt 5:17 “To fulfill the Law and the Prophets.”

This IS the Law and the Prophets. One covers all.

“In everything.” Not based on _____, but _____.

I naturally want _____, so I will _____.