**Week of July 28, 2019**

**Matthew 7:1-6 15-23**

1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. 6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

15 Beware\* of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits\*. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot\* bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them\*, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson is Jesus cautioned His follower about judging others. To “judge not” however, is not intended to suggest that we are to totally avoid addressing things that we know to be wrong. Righteous judging is permitted (see John 7:24), and James inferred that any judging should be done with mercy (See James 2:12-13) and spiritual discernment (the ability to investigate properly; having good judgement). Even the psalmist said, “Teach me good knowledge and good judgement (discernment,)” (Psalm 119:66) Jesus was teaching against prejudicial judging – that is, pre-judging without information or compassion.

Jesus knew the hypocrites, those who are guilty themselves, love to judge others. To discourage them, Jesus warned that those who judge others would also be judged harder by God. Jesus said, if was hypocritical to judge someone who has a speck in his or her eye when you have a log protruding from your eye.

Swine (pork/pig) was considered by the Jews, an unclean (see Leviticus 11:7). Jesus was not suggesting that we should not share the Good news with the unsaved; but if an unbeliever is determined against hearing the truth, we should not force the person to listen.

Jesus then warned against false prophets. Ferocious wolves in sheep’s clothing are those outwardly appear harmless or friendly, but inwardly they are dangerous. Jesus used the image of the tree and fruit to demonstrate that God’s followers should show evidence of belonging to God. God’s tree produce good fruit; but a bad tree produces bad fruit. Unfruitful fruit trees are cut down and burned. The comparison suggest that God’s true disciples will be recognized by the fruit they bear-that is, their godly character. Jesus ended this section of the sermon by saying that God knows who is sincere before Him and is not. Many may call on God’s name, but God knows those who are truly committed to Him. They the will of God, and will certainly enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Republishing of the Sunday School Publishing Board