

## **Carrollton Christian Fellowship**

### **Step 1:**

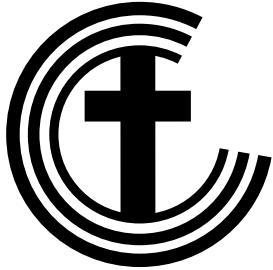
**Pray for Insight:** Begin with a prayer for understanding and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

### **Step 2: Observation**

**Read the Text:** Read Matthew 7 slowly and carefully. Consider reading it in multiple translations for different perspectives.

**Identify Key Verses:** Highlight or underline key verses that stand out.

**Note Repeated Words/Phrases:** Pay attention to repeated words and phrases like "judge," "ask," "seek," "knock," "enter," and "fruit."



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**Context:** Note the broader context of Matthew 4–7, known as the temptation and beginning ministry of Jesus, and the Sermon on the Mount. Recognize Jesus' initial steps of ministry and teachings on Kingdom living.

### **Step 3: Interpretation**

**Cross-References:** Examine the cross-references provided in the message to gain a deeper understanding of the themes and teachings in Matthew 7.

#### **1. Judging Others (Matthew 7:1–6)**

- v.1-2: What does Jesus mean by "judge not, that you be not judged"? How does this align with Philippians 1:9-10 and James 3:13-15? (Righteous judgment)



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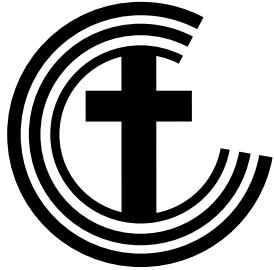
- v.3-5: What does the analogy of the speck and plank teach about hypocrisy and self-examination? Read Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15.

- v.6: What does it mean not to give what is holy to dogs or cast pearls before swine? How does this relate to discernment?

### **2. Asking, Seeking, Knocking (Matthew 7:7–12)**

- v.7-8: What assurances do we receive about prayer? Cross-reference with John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 10:9.

- v.9-11: Compare human and divine giving. Consider the importance of persistence in prayer as seen in Luke 11:9-13.



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- v.12: How does the Golden Rule encapsulate the Law and the Prophets?

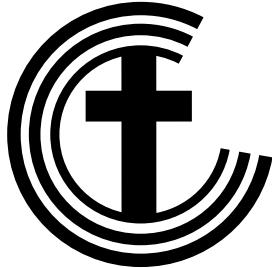
### 3. The Narrow and Wide Gates (Matthew 7:13–14)

- v.13-14: What is the significance of the narrow gate? Cross-reference with John 10:9, Mark 8:34, and Joshua 24:15.

- What does the urgency and broad invitation imply?

### 4. True and False Prophets (Matthew 7:15–20)

- v.15-16: How are false prophets recognized? What does their fruit reveal? Read James 3:17-18 and John 15:1-8.



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- v.17-20: Understand the importance of watching for fruit in people's lives.

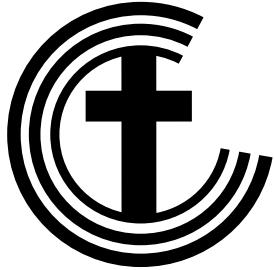
### 5. True and False Disciples (Matthew 7:21–23)

- v.21-23: Why isn't everyone who calls Jesus 'Lord' part of the kingdom? Cross-reference with Romans 6:23 and Matthew 25:31-46.

- What is the significance of doing the will of the Father?

### 6. The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24–27)

- v.24-27: What does building on the rock signify? How does this relate to James 1:22-25 and Proverbs 12:3?



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- What are the consequences of building on sand versus rock? In what ways has the Lord revealed in our studies that you may have built certain parts of your life on the sand? How have you built certain parts on the rock? How can you allow the Lord to rebuild the areas you've built on the sand to on the rock?

### 7. Conclusion (Matthew 7:28-29)

- v.28-29: Reflect on the authority of Jesus' teaching. Compare this with Isaiah 55:7 and Deuteronomy 5:32.

### Step 3: Application

- Personal Reflection: Meditate on how Matthew 7 applies to your life. Use these questions to guide your reflection:

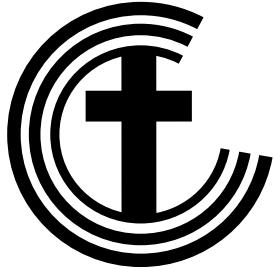


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- Am I quick to judge others while ignoring my own faults?
- How persistent am I in prayer?
- Am I discerning about false teachings and false prophets in my life?
- How can I build a stronger foundation based on Jesus' teachings?

- Prayer Points:
  - Ask God for humility and wisdom in self-examination.
  - Pray for perseverance and faith in seeking, asking, and knocking.
  - Seek discernment to recognize false teachings and the strength to build your life on Jesus' words.



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### **Group Discussion Questions:**

- What themes stood out to you the most in Matthew 7?
- How do the cross-references enhance your understanding of Jesus' message?
- Share a personal example of how you've applied or plan to apply one of the teachings from Matthew 7.
- Discuss with your group how to help each other stay accountable to these teachings.