### Matthew

## Chapter 7

1‘Don’t judge others, so you won’t be judged…  
  
 2‘For the [rules] by which you judge others  
 Are the rules they’ll use to judge you.  
 And the standards you’re setting for them  
 Are the standards that they’ll set for you.  
  
 3‘Why look for the chaff in your brother’s eye,  
 When you can’t see the rafter in yours?  
 4For, how can you say to your brother,  
 Let me remove this chaff from your eye,  
 When {Look!} there’s a rafter in yours?  
  
 5‘Hypocrites!  
 Remove first the rafters from your own eyes,  
 And then you’ll be able to see  
 How to take chaff from the eye of your brother.  
  
 6‘And don’t lay your holy things before dogs  
 Nor throw your pearls before pigs,  
 So they can’t trample them under their feet  
 And then turn around and gore you.  
  
 7‘Keep asking and you’ll receive…  
 Keep searching and you’ll find…  
 Keep knocking and [the door] will be opened.  
 8For all will receive that keep asking…  
 All that keep searching, will find…  
 And [the door] will be opened to all those who knock.  
  
 9‘For about which man, isn’t this true:  
 If his son should ask him for bread,  
 He won’t hand him a stone.  
 10Or if he should ask for a fish,  
 He won’t hand him a snake.  
  
 11‘So if you, in your wicked condition,  
 Will provide good gifts to your children;  
 How much more will your Father in heaven  
 Give good things to those who keep asking?  
  
 12‘Also, as you would like to be treated,  
 Is the way that you should treat others.  
 For, that’s [the whole point] of the Law and the Prophets!  
  
 13‘You should enter through the gate that’s narrow;  
 For the road to destruction is both broad and wide,  
 And that’s the way most people are going.  
 14But the gateway to life is narrow and tight,  
 And few are those who can find it.  
  
 15‘Beware of false prophets that come dressed as sheep,  
 But on the inside, are just hungry wolves.  
 16You’ll recognize them by the fruit that they bear…  
 For you don’t pick grapes from the briers,  
 And you don’t pick figs among thistles.  
  
 17‘A good tree will bear fruit that’s good,  
 While the rotten ones bear fruit that’s bad.  
 18So a good tree won’t bear fruit that’s bad,  
 And a rotten tree won’t bear fruit that’s good.  
 19Then the trees that don’t bear good fruit  
 Will be cut down and thrown in a fire…  
 20So you’ll recognize them by the fruit that they bear!  
  
 21‘Not all that shout Lord, Lord, to me  
 Will enter the Kingdom of [God]…  
 Just those who are doing the will  
 Of my Father in the heavens.  
  
 22‘Yet, many will say, O Lord!  
 In your name, didn’t I prophesy?  
 And in your name, didn’t I cast out demons?  
 Yes, haven’t we done great deeds in your name?  
 23But I’ll tell them: I never knew you…  
 Get away from me, you lawbreakers!  
  
 24‘Now, those who listen and do as I say  
 Are like the very wise man  
 That founded his home upon rock.  
 25So because of its solid foundation,  
 It’ll be able to stand  
 When winds, floods, and rains beat on his house.  
  
 26‘Yet, those who hear and don’t do as I say  
 Are like fools that build their houses on sand.  
 27For, when they face winds, rains, and floods,  
 Their houses will fall in a mighty collapse.’  
  
28Well after Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were awe-struck by his way of teaching. 29Because unlike their Scribes, he taught with authority.