

GET LOW BEFORE YOUR JUST & GRACIOUS FATHER

Matthew 7:1-12

I. Bow before our Father's throne of *judgment* (vv. 1-6).

- A. So that in humility we might be *spared* by Him (vv. 1-4).
- B. So that in humility we might rightly *assess* others (vv. 5-6).

II. Bow before our Father's throne of *grace* (vv. 7-12).

- A. So that in humility we might be *supplied* by Him (vv. 7-11).
- B. So that in humility we might rightly *assist* others (v. 12).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Is the sermon on the mount a unified message or a bunch of disconnected thoughts? If it is unified, what is the main thrust of the message and how would you explain the various parts?
2. What does it mean to judge? Is Jesus forbidding all judging of others or only a certain kind?
3. How does getting low before God's judgment throne deliver us from prideful judging and enable us to humbly judge?
4. What is Jesus talking about in v. 6 when he tells us not to throw pearls to pigs?
5. Why do you think Christ moves to prayer after speaking of judging others? What is the connection between vv. 1-6 and vv. 7-12?
6. When God promises to give us what we ask does this mean we can ask for anything at all and that God is duty-bound to give it? How do we understand these promises in the broader context of the sermon and Scripture?
7. What illustration does God give us to encourage us to pray? And how does God's generous response to our needs lead us to fulfill the "golden rule" of v. 12?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Am I dealing with my own sin before God through faith in Christ? Or am I too focused upon the sins of others to even see my own sin?
2. How often upon hearing a sermon do I think, "So-and-so really needs to hear that," without recognizing my own need to hear and respond to it?
3. Is God's gracious generosity in answering prayer leading me to grow as a person of large-hearted generosity and care for those around me?