

# Matthew 7

## From Stassen: For going Judgement for Forgiveness

Traditional Righteousness	Diagnosis of Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
<p>Matt 7:1-2: Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.</p> <p><a href="#">See the Crucifix</a> essay</p>	<p>7:3-4: Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," while the log is in your own eye?</p>	<p>7:5: You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.</p>

## From the "Second Coming Of Christ: The resurrection of Chris within You," Discourse 30 by Paramahansa Yogananda

- Karmic consequences of being unkindly judgmental
- The ideal of being nonjudgmental versus one's duty to truth
- Right way to give correction and help others reform themselves
- The spiritual and psychological dangers of gossip
- Be not inwardly critical of others; practice healthy self-criticism

## From Stassen: Practicing Loyalty to God, Not Worldly Powers

Traditional Righteousness	Diagnosis of Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
<p>Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine;</p>	<p>Or they will trample them and maul you</p>	<p>Ask, and it will be given you; see, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you . . . If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!</p> <p>Therefore, in everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law of the prophets.</p>

## From the "Second Coming Of Christ: The resurrection of Chris within You," Discourse 30 by Paramahansa Yogananda

Spiritual advice is of no avail to unappreciative persons who snap at their would-be helper with cynicism and derision. Just as swine would doltishly trample on pearls cast before them, so people who are deeply wallowing in worldly muck are insensitive to the wisdom gems of saints who speak of a self-controlled existence. Attempts to reform with helpful sermons low-minded, confirmed evil persons, or those with an intransigent mind-set, will likely be met with sneers and even attempted injurious antagonism. Jesus' advice means that wisdom means that wisdom should be accorded the esteem due to something spiritually precious; it should neither be flaunted nor used as coercion. Similarly in the Bhagavad Gita the Lord mandates: "Never voice these truths to one who is without self-control or devotion, nor to one who performs no service or does not care to hear, nor to one who speaks ill of Me." Persons caught up in evil or nonunderstanding have no wish or intention to change and only laugh at lofty principles and ridicule those who propound them.

Better it is to stay away from evil persons, and to remain reserved around the unreceptive. When an outstretched helping hand is slapped, it should be withdrawn for a time until the recipient is ready to accept it. One who gives sincerity that is not appreciated or is abused is casting away "pearls" uselessly; the wise reserve their spiritual treasure to benefit those who are receptive.

Matthew 7:7-11

*"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh received; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."*

*Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will be given him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will be given him a serpent?"*

*"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"*

From the "Second Coming Of Christ: The resurrection of Chris within You," Discourse 30 by Paramahansa Yogananda

The devotee who persistently ask the divine truth from God will receive it from his Omniscient FATHER. If he seeks God perseveringly behind the darkness of closed eyes in meditation, he will find Him. By the

devotee's continuous knocking with prayerful urgency at the gate of silence leading to God, it shall be opened unto him, and his consciousness will enter into the heavenly region of blissful God-communion. Every devotee who with unrelenting zeal ask for God-realization receives that enlightenment without fail.

All prodigal sons of God, having run away from the bliss of God-contact into the slums of material distractions, will someday come back towards God through the interior gate of meditative peace to render their blissful inner home. Every child of God lost in the forest of material desires, but unflaggingly seeking a way out, will find his way back to God's Heavenly Mansion. He who knocks continuously at the door to God's presence with the throbs of his heartfelt devotion will certainly find that God will receive him. Unceasing devotion is the force that can open the gates of God's heart for the devotee to enter in.

**Matt. 7:12**

*"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law of the prophets."*

The Divine Law and the prophets deal with people in the noblest ways, that people in turn will learn to act always nobly. God is never cranky, mean, or spiteful even toward those of troublesome temperaments; people who feel punished by Him have rather disturbed themselves due to their own rancorous thoughts and wrong actions. The infinite voice of God is silent, yet He is always whispering gently and lovingly through one's conscience: "Child, wake up, forsake the evil way." So even in the relationship between man and his Maker, God gives His great love to His children that they may forsake their misbehavior and learn to return love to Him from the abundance of their own hearts.

## From Stassen : How to tell a true Ethic from a false one

Traditional Righteousness	Diagnosis of Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
Matt. 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate.	for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it	But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it
False Prophets: those that are more about cultural norms and teach directing away from Jesus' teachings, the sermon on the mount	Teaching that cause more anxiety rather that peace, or how to participate in the Reign of God. Usually for prophet, power and control	Know them by their fruits; look at the people they've influenced. Are they surrounded by peace and harmony, or anxiety and chaos?
Standing on a rock or sinking in the sand?	Where am I?	Matt 7:24-28 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who bears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall.

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The "broadness" of evil path signifies the unlimited potentialities for committing evil deeds. The reckless throng, lured by temptations and compelled by iniquitous impulses, enters the easy gate of evil and follows the broad path of evil actions, arm-in-arm with their false promisis of quick gratification. But as the evildoers jostle madly along, the path of evil suddenly ends in a precipitous fall into the valley of misery.

The false prophet line is a warning to the gullible victims of unqualified spiritual teachers.

- A true guru will not bring evil or misguide be known of to his followers. He can be known by his humility, uprightness, and God-attunement

evidenced by his ability to enter the elevated states of God-communion in Christ and Cosmic consciousness.

- Every false prophet in time is exposed and can be cut down by the axe of wise and just criticism and is cast into the fire of oblivion. By the thoughts, the discriminating devotee will know the difference between a good prophet or a guru and a false one.
- The true guru may instruct a few persons or a great many, but his whole intention is to raise his disciples to Christlike, Krishna-like, stature