

A Different King

Setting Priorities Matthew 6:19—7:29

*“For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds;
and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”* Matthew 7:8

1. Read Matthew 6:19-34. What is heavenly treasure and how do we “store it up”? (1 Timothy 6:17–19)
2. What earthly treasures do you value (a material possession, status, a relationship)? What is the difference between heavenly and earthly treasure? Have you ever been disappointed by earthly treasure?
3. Jesus says, “No one can serve two masters” (verse 24). How does your choice of a master affect your other choices? Think of one way you will choose to follow your Master today.
4. Verses 25–34 encourage us to turn away from worry and turn to faith. What examples does Jesus give of God’s care over his creation?
5. What are God’s reasons for caring for us? (verses 26b, 32)
6. What do the pagans run after? What is the follower of Jesus to seek?
7. In verse 34 Jesus says, “‘Therefore do not worry about tomorrow’ ”.... What does the “therefore” look back to in the passage? How can knowing these truths help when you are anxious? What worry can you surrender today?
8. Read Matthew 7:1–29. Why should we not judge others? (7:1–2; Romans 2:1–4) Who is the true judge? (Psalm 9:7–8; James 4:12)

9. What can we learn about the type of relationship God desires to have with his people from verses 7-12? (Jeremiah 29:13) What kind of father do these verses depict?

10. Read verse 12, commonly known as the Golden Rule. Think and meditate on this one verse. Ask God to open your eyes and help you look at your life compared to this standard, how do you compare? What do verses 7-12 tell us about applying this verse to our lives?

11. How does Christ's teaching on the Narrow and Wide Gates and The Tree and Its Fruit relate to verse 12?

12. A tree is recognized by its fruit. It would seem by what follows in verses 21-23 that the fruit may not always be so easy to identify. How can we be sure that the fruit we bear will be good? (Jn. 15:4-5)

13. On a fine day, two houses may appear the same. What does it take to show the difference? Why does one fall down?

13. What other things are you tempted to "build" your life on, instead of the True Rock?

14. What storms do you find yourself currently in? How and/or what is the current state of your foundation? What one thing can you take from this passage and apply to your life in order to help strengthen your foundation?