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Wednesday, October 28, 2026

WOW – Word on Wednesday
The Blueprint for Powerful Practical Living!
Matthew 7:1-13

Intro: As we continue our lesson of series “The Blueprint for Powerful Practical Living”, tonight we are exploring Matthew 7:1-13. The passage contains some of the most famous and most misunderstood sayings of Jesus – from “Judge not, to the Golden Rule and the Narrow Gate”. Jesus isn’t just giving us a list of rules here, He is offering a radical upside down way of looking at our relationships, our prayer lives, and our daily choices. Let’s walk through these powerful lessons!

1. The Mirror of Humility (vs 1-5)

- A. The Core Concept:** Stop passing harsh, hypocritical verdicts on others. Romans 2:1-3
- B.** Kingdom relationships are built on humility, self-awareness, and grace rather than self-righteous condemnation.
- C. Nature of the Judgement:** Jesus does not forbid absolute moral discernment.
- D. The Principle of Reciprocity:** The standard of grace or harshness we measure out is the exact measure we will receive back to us. Galatians 6:1
- E. The Speck vs. the Plank (vs 5)** James 4:11-12
 - Jesus uses a humorous, exaggerated illustration to show our human tendency towards other people’s minor flaws, while remaining blind to our own blind spots.

2. The Doorway of Dependence (vs 6-11)

- A. The Core Concept:** Protect sacred truths with wise discernment.
- B.** All doors are not open for deliverance.
- C. Holy things and swine (vs 6)** Proverbs 9:7-8
 - Jesus warns not to judge harshly, but bring a balance with discernment.
 - Persistent Prayer (vs 8) – The Greek verbs for ask, seek, and knock are continuous present tense.
- D. The Character of the Father (vs 9-11)**
 - Jesus argues from the lesser to the greater.
 - If imperfect parents give good gifts to their children, how much more will a perfect, holy, loving Father will give His children.

3. The Path of Distinction (v 12-13)

- A. The Core Concept:** Authentic faith expresses itself through radical love and a conscious choice. Leviticus 19:18
- B. The Golden Rule:** (vs 12) – Jesus takes a common negative philosophical rule (don’t do what you don’t’ done to you)
- C.** This is a proactive, positive command to love others as you wish to be loved.
- D.** This fulfills the heart of God’s law.
- E. The Two Gates and Two Roads (vs 13)**
 - Jesus presents a stark spiritual binary.

- The wide gate represents convenience, cultural compliance, and self-indulgence. Luke 13:24
- The narrow gate leads to life, but it requires leaving behind personal baggage, pride, and the desire for worldly approval. John 14:6
- The narrow gate represents restriction, radical obedience, and a break from the crowd.