Sermon on the Mount Part 5 Matthew 7:1-13 3/1/15

- 7 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
- 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.
- 6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.
- 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
- 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets
- 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.

Comparisons from this passage:

Sawdust/Plank-Our sin looks to us to be as small as a speck, and to others as large as a plank. We must both deal with our own sin, and remember to humbly serve others in their struggle with sin. Pearls/Pig-Do not entrust that which is sacred, to those who will treat it with no regard. Bread/Stone-God is the giver of good gifts and loves to give good things to His children! Fish/Snake- God is the giver of good gifts, and loves to give good things to His children! Narrow/Wide-The path to salvation is not easily accessible or taken by many—only a few are able to find the way by God's grace!

What does this word picture teach us about:

- 1. Our relationship with God?
 - a. The way we judge others, is how we shall be judged.
 - b. We must deal with our own "planks and specks" before God
 - c. God is good, and gives GOOD gifts! In the midst of life's struggles and challenges, we must remember the character of God in spite of our circumstances! Look for the bread, for it is there!
 - d. The path to God is not the large, and easy way. It is small, narrow, and must be pursued!
- 2. Our responsibility to our neighbors?
 - a. We must deal with our own hearts, before helping our neighbors. However we are still called to challenge, encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - b. The treasures of heaven and blessings of God are not to be scattered to those with hardened hearts that refuse to hear.
 - c. Treat others as you yourself would desire to be treated.