

Series: MOTIVE

Text: Matthew 7:7-20

Title: "Do All, With Good Fruit"

Introduction: WELCOME, BMZ! Glad you're with us TODAY for "**MOTIVE: What Drives You**"! JESUS has a PREFERENCE for Your MOTIVE and He GIVES IT.

The SERMON on the MOUNT ... The ONLY WAY to UNDERSTAND this MESSAGE is to KNOW The PREACHER! And the ONLY WAY to KNOW the PREACHER is to be FILLED with HIS SPIRIT (*I will be with you always...*). AND the ONLY WAY to BE FILLED with HIS SPIRIT is to FIRST SURRENDER to HIM as LORD.

Here's what **The SERMON on the MOUNT IS: It's JESUS' STATEMENT of the LIFE we will LIVE when the HOLY SPIRIT is HAVING HIS WAY with US.**

YOU CHANGE your MOTIVE ... The SPIRIT of JESUS DRIVES YOUR LIFE!

Now, REMEMBER what we said ... CHRISTIANITY (Identifiable) is being TOTALLY TRANSFORMED into SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT (**GOD LOGIC / SUPERNATURAL Tendencies / JESUS' DISPOSITION and MOTIVES BIRTHED in ME**) from WHO you ONCE WERE and WHAT the WORLD SAYS is GOOD!

Last week, I ENCOURAGED US to THINK about "CHARACTER" ... WHAT makes up GODLY / CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER? In 2<sup>nd</sup> PETER 1, Peter invites us to BUILD our Christ-Like CHARACTER by ADDING certain THINGS to our LIVES through our CONCENTRATION and DILIGENCE. **To FAITH add MORAL EXCELLENCE, add KNOWLEDGE, add SELF-CONTROL, add PATIENT ENDURANCE, add GODLINESS, add BROTHERLY AFFECTION, add LOVE for EVERYONE ... CHRIST-Like!**

NONE of us are BORN with CHARACTER. It is something we BUILD over TIME. Our CHARACTER is BUILT as we CHOOSE to ALLOW HIS SPIRIT to TEACH us to LIVE according to JESUS' STANDARDS as we ENCOUNTER our WORLD. As we LIVE in a CHRIST-LIKE MANNER, we BECOME more CHRIST-LIKE in CHARACTER.

Last week, Jesus REMINDED US to NOT JUDGE OTHERS ... like ... PERIOD! DON'T! Jesus INVITES US to CONSIDER NOT being CRITICAL of OTHER PEOPLE. When we are CRITICAL of OTHER PEOPLE, we can NOT at the SAME TIME LOVE THEM the way CHRIST LOVES US! We're AFTER CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER ... Love one another.

WHEN The HOLY SPIRIT points out the WRONG and the FLAWS in OTHERS, it is NOT for CONDEMNATION, but for INTERCESSION... REMEMBER, GOD does NOT LOOK at the ACT, BUT at the POTENTIAL / ETERNAL!

Today, we CONTINUE in MATTHEW 7, and we CONTINUE to BUILD CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER. PART of Christ-Like CHARACTER is to ...

### **Be Considerate**

CONSIDER how GOD has DEALT with YOU (Grace, Compassion, Unconditional Love, Forgiveness), and then CONSIDER doing LIKEWISE. Christ-Like CHARACTER includes TREATING OTHERS HOW we've been TREATED. Be CONSIDERATE!

Now, we can NOT COVER ALL the VERSES in Chapter 7, but we will BIBLE STUDY what we CAN. Now, REMEMBER at the END of our TIME LAST WEEK / the VERSE leading UP to WHERE we are GOING TODAY ... LOG out of OWN EYE BEFORE you get the SPECK out of your FRIEND'S EYE. Get YOURSELF RIGHT with GOD ... BEFORE you

SHARE your FAITH with OTHERS! Then JESUS gives a WARNING about our SHARING HIM with OTHER PEOPLE ... **MATTHEW 7:6 = <sup>6</sup> “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.”<sup>1</sup>**

Last SUMMER on our YOUTH MISSION TRIP to NEW ORLEANS, we had an OPPORTUNITY to do some PERSONAL MINISTRY with some of the HOMELESS people who LIVED DOWNTOWN in PARKS and UNDER HIGHWAY BRIDGES / RAMPS. And PASTOR JUSTIN reminded us to START CONVERSATIONS with “PEOPLE of PEACE” ... **#1 = Look for People of PEACE**

People OPEN to The GOOD NEWS of JESUS. Not the HARD-HEARTED, VINDICTIVE, MEAN people who THINK they can STILL HANDLE LIFE. People are MORE OPEN to what JESUS OFFERS when they are going through TRIALS, IN TROUBLE, or IN TRANSITION.

Jesus wants US to be GOOD STEWARDS of HIS WORD. Be SMART. IF you GO to NON-BELIEVERS and start SHARING DEEP TRUTHS of The SERMON on the MOUNT ... like BE HUMBLE ... BE a PEACEMAKER ... MOURN over your SINS ... REJOICE in PERSECUTION ... BE a DOORMAT like JESUS ...

NON-BELIEVERS will PUSH BACK / TRAMPLE these SACRED TRUTHS of JESUS. They will LAUGH and MOCK SUCH BELIEFS / ACTIONS. THEN, they will TURN on YOU! They will LAUGH at YOU and MOCK YOU ... **“WHAT are you STUPID? LAY down my RIGHTS to MYSELF and TAKE UP a CROSS ... You want ME to SUFFER what I DON’T DESERVE? ACCEPT FALSE ACCUSATIONS without a FIGHT? PUT OTHERS BEFORE MYSELF NO MATTER HOW HUMILIATING? Be HUMBLE? You do NOT UNDERSTAND HOW this WORLD WORKS, BUDDY! NO ONE in their RIGHT MIND LIVES THAT WAY! You’re an IDIOT! You’re a DOORMAT!”**

BUT ... What we CAN SHARE with ALL PEOPLE is The SALVATION MESSAGE. SALVATION is AVAILABLE to ALL. BUT ... LOOK for PEOPLE of PEACE when it comes to SALVATION as WELL. PRAY for GOD’S GUIDANCE. We do NOT KNOW where people ARE AT. GOD DOES. GOD KNOW if their HEARTS are OPEN to The GOOD NEWS. IF we TRY to SHARE The GOOD NEWS with PEOPLE who are HARD-HEARTED, they TOO will TRAMPLE the PEARLS of The GOOD NEWS of JESUS (forgiveness, salvation, eternity) ... and you MIGHT TURN them OFF to The GOOD NEWS for a LONG TIME! Do NOT USE your COMMON SENSE when SHARING JESUS. PRAY and ALLOW the HOLY SPIRIT to SHOW you some GOD SENSE!

Now, RIGHT AFTER the PEARL / PIG VERSE, Jesus TALKS about PRAYER ... makes SENSE. Please READ MATTHEW 7:7-11 on your own (NEXT STEPS). REMEMBERING that PRAYER is about GOD’S WILL being DONE. Prayer is an OPPORTUNITY for US to SEE the WORLD AROUND us with GOD’S EYES. To have GOD’S HEART about the PEOPLE and CIRCUMSTANCES in our days.

Prayer for God’s Heart and Sight? INTERCESSORY... PRAYING for PEOPLE according to GOD, not us.

We SKIP AHEAD to VERSE 12 (Memory Verse / Next Steps) ... this is GOLDEN ... **MATTHEW 7:12 = <sup>12</sup> “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.”<sup>2</sup>** This does NOT say, DON’T DO

<sup>1</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, (2015). <http://www.tyndale.com> (M7:6). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, (2015). <http://www.tyndale.com> (M7:12). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

to OTHERS what you DON'T want THEM to DO to YOU. VERY DIFFERENT. This is POSITIVE...

### #2 = God's **POSITIVE Principle**

To NOT DO to OTHERS is to just WITHOLD some NEGATIVE. This is PRO-ACTIVE ... This is POSITIVE. DO to OTHERS **WHATEVER** you would LIKE THEM to DO to YOU. I'll ASK ... WHAT would YOU LIKE OTHERS to DO to YOU? JESUS SAYS ... DO that SAME THING to THEM ... AND ... YOU GO FIRST! Do NOT WAIT for THEM to DO it to YOU! YOU INITIATE the KINDNESS and the "BENEFIT of the DOUBT", and the LOVE, FORGIVENESS, LETTING the OTHER PERSON OFF the HOOK!

*"I would like PEOPLE to give me CREDIT for my GOOD MOTIVES."* Okay, GIVE THEM CREDIT for THEIRS ... FIRST! *"I would like OTHERS to NOT PASS HARSH JUDGEMENT on ME."* Good. START NOT PASSING HARSH JUDGEMENTS on OTHERS. *"I would like PEOPLE to PRAY for ME."* PRAY for THEM, FIRST!

Think ... ***"The MEASURE of MY GROWTH in GRACE is MY ATTITUDE towards OTHER people."*** – Chambers. Do you WANT to KNOW IF you are GROWING in GRACE / CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER? Well, WHAT is your ATTITUDE towards OTHER people ... like ANY, and ALL of THEM? THAT is your MEASUREMENT.

GRACE is NOT LOOKING for the RIGHT in OTHERS, but NEVER CEASING to GIVE RIGHTNESS to THEM. GRACE is NOT EXPECTING JUSTICE from OTHERS, but NEVER CEASING to GIVE IT. GRACE is JESUS ... **GIVE ALL; EXPECT NOTHING.**

***In the NEW TESTAMENT and/or JESUS' WORDS, there is NO ROOM for the PERSON who SAYS they are SAVED BY GRACE but does NOT PRODUCE GRACE in REAL LIFE. NO ROOM!***

Listen, these STATEMENTS of JESUS are NOT STANDARDS for US to ATTAIN; God TRANSFORMS US and FILLS us with HIS SPIRIT and the SPIRIT does the WORK THROUGH US. Like, The HOLY SPIRIT DOES it ALL. We simply SURRENDER to JESUS and ALLOW the FILLING of The SPIRIT and The SPIRIT to HAVE HIS WAY with US.

Jesus continues. Maybe you've heard this ... **MATTHEW 7:13-14 = <sup>13</sup> "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. <sup>3</sup>"**

JESUS did NOT STUTTER, NOR did He GIVE ANY LEAWAY ... There is ...

### #3 = The **WIDE and NARROW**

Listen carefully ... There is a DIFFERENCE between WARNING and THREATENING. JESUS NEVER THREATENS and SATAN NEVER WARNS. JESUS WARNS as INSPIRED by His LOVE and PATIENCE. Read this STATEMENT with The CROSS in MIND. JESUS DIED out of LOVE for US SINNERS, and so you have a CHOICE. Jesus is STATING the INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE – ***"HOW can YOU ESCAPE the DAMNATION of HELL?"*** JESUS is NOT being MEAN. He's BEING REAL ... with YOU! He's INVITING us to ASK OURSELVES, ***"WHAT is MY PLAN? IF I REFUSE to SURRENDER to JESUS and TRUST in His BODILY DEATH and BODILY RESURRECTION, HOW will I ESCAPE HELL ... for ETERNITY?"***

He CAUSES US to ASK OURSELVES this QUESTION ... BEFORE it is TOO LATE ... BECAUSE He LOVES US ENOUGH to WARN US!

Now, we NEED to GO a LITTLE FURTHER ... the GATEWAY is NARROW, and the ROAD is DIFFICULT. The ROAD to SALVATION is NOT DIFFICULT. SIMPLY SURRENDER. That's EASY. The DIFFICULTY comes with what HAPPENS NEXT. There is a DIFFERENCE between being SAVED and being a DISCIPLE.

DISCIPLESHIP means a PERSONAL DEDICATION of MY LIFE to JESUS. It is POSSIBLE, according to Scripture, to BE SAVED by God's GRACE without becoming a Disciple of JESUS. BUT **JESUS NEVER STOPS at SALVATION**. Our LIVES will be TESTED by FIRE (1 Cor. 3:13) and I, personally, WANT to have SOMETHING of SUBSTANCE to OFFER JESUS throughout ETERNITY ... My LIFE HERE, MATTERS.

JESUS said our GREAT COMMISSION is to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES ... NOT just CONVERTS. Jesus SAVED ME! I want to RESPOND WELL, in MY DISCIPLESHIP.

John Wesley – ***“The Church changes the world, not by making converts, but by making disciples.”*** That is TRUE! Because that is what JESUS SAID. Followers / DISCIPLES take up a CROSS and FOLLOW JESUS INTO a WORLD that NEEDS HIM!

Will I respond to MY SAVED ETERNITY with DISCIPLESHIP UNDER MY LORD?

Jesus ... **MATTHEW 7:15-16 = <sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. <sup>16</sup> You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”**

A PROPHET can be ANYONE you TRUST to LEAD you in your FAITH. It might be a PASTOR, a FAMILY Member, or a FRIEND. FALSE PROPHETS / VICIOUS WOLVES are either INTENTIONAL and EVIL or they have been DECEIVED into THINKING they are RIGHT ... But, FALSE, nonetheless. FALSE PROPHETS are EITHER FALSE in their DOCTRINE (what they TEACH is NOT of JESUS) or they are FALSE in their PERSON (WHO they ARE).

People can SOUND very SMART and TRUSTWORTHY because they might KNOW CHURCH-SPEAK. They SOUND and APPEAR to be VERY RELIGIOUS. BUT we need to KNOW SCRIPTURE so we can TELL when False Prophets TWIST IT. False Prophets can MAYBE have a SOLID TEACHING, but NOT be TRUE in WHO they ARE. Often people will TEACH for their OWN BENEFIT ... to LOOK GOOD (Pharisees).

Jesus said to BEWARD ... AND, that False Prophets are IDENTIFIABLE, by their fruit. **#4 = Test the FRUIT**

Jesus uses FRUIT to help His FOLLOWERS NOT become HERESY-HOUNDS and SPEND all their TIME LOOKING for FALSE TEACHERS and CRITICIZING. FRUIT takes TIME to GROW. Jesus teaches to WATCH TEACHERS / PREACHERS / other FOLLOWERS over TIME. Give them TIME to PRODUCE FRUIT ... GOOD or BAD.

But PAY ATTENTION ... **MATTHEW 7:17-20 = <sup>17</sup> A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. <sup>4</sup>**

Again, JESUS WARNS ... NOT a THREAT. He just TELLS US that our FRUIT MATTERS. Our ELDER'S / Teacher's / PREACHER'S FRUIT MATTERS. WATCH them over TIME and SEE if their TEACHINGS are BIBLICAL / CHRIST-LIKE. SEE, NOT if they are PERFECT (not possible), but DOES their LIFE REFLECT a HEART for CHRIST?

PAUL was CONCERNED as a Teacher / Preacher / APOSTLE about HIS OWN HEART and BEING ... 1 CORINTHIANS 9:27 = <sup>27</sup> *I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.* <sup>5</sup>

PAUL DISCIPLINED HIMSELF so HE, by the POWER of The Holy Spirit, was a PRODUCER of GOOD FRUIT! Me too! 23 years of data...

Do you WANT to KNOW what GOOD FRUIT LOOKS LIKE in a FOLLOWER of JESUS? It is the FRUIT of the SPIRIT... GALATIANS 5:22-23a = <sup>22</sup> *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.* <sup>6</sup>

A DISCIPLE of JESUS ... CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER ... One SAVED by GRACE should PRODUCE GRACE-FILLED GOODS ... FRUIT. Let's keep GROWING in our FAITH so we can SHARE JESUS with OTHERS.

Let's Pray!

Next Steps: *Memorize Matthew 7:12*  
*Read Matthew 7 and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9*  
*Invite someone to Worship with you*

<sup>5</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (1 Co 9:27). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>6</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ga 5:22-23). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

## Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!  
In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

### **IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today**

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.  
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is HIT "**SEND**" your COMPLETED Connection Card

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As our ushers GET READY to come forward

- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... MATTHEW 7:13-14 =<sup>13</sup> "**You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.**"<sup>7</sup>
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- Next Week: **MOTIVE – The Most TERRIFYING WORDS of JESUS...**

*"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."*

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