

Lesson 5: The Christian's Relationships

Followers of Christ are called to live like Christ.



Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

Introduction: In this lesson we are challenged to take a hard look at how we interact with others. We must consider how we manage our relationships and determine if we are fully representing Jesus in our dealings with others. If we claim to be followers of Christ, do people see us that way? Does our "light so shine"? Let's talk about it.

Key Terms Defined

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD in Greek	DEFINITION (Contextual)
Fault finding		
Judgemental		
Christlikeness		
Succinct		
Imperative		
Meaning of the Greek term: KRINO		

SECTION 1: Do not be a fault finder

(Read Matt 7: 1-6)

Jesus sent a very strong message to all who follow him. Judgment should not be cast onto others because that same judgment can be cast on you, and even greater by our Father in Heaven.
(Matt 7:1)

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** Defining judgment: Does "judge not" mean we should never point out sin or discern right from wrong? How do we balance this with 1 John 4:1?
2. "Pearls before swine". What do dogs and swine (pigs) represent in verse 6 and what does it mean to "cast pearls" before them in a modern context?
3. **Application:** Are you struggling in this area?

SECTION 2: Persist in Prayer

(Read Matt 7: 7-11)

What a friend we have in Jesus! Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. The words of this song still ring true for us today.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** Ask, seek, knock, What is the difference between these three commands? Is there a progression in intensity or persistence?
2. God as Father: How does Jesus use the analogy of a human father when he described (bread vs stone and fish vs snake) analogy? Does this describe God's heart toward those who seek him?

SECTION 3: Love others as yourself

(Read Matt 7:12; 22:34-40)

Ask yourself the question, would I do that to myself? Would I treat myself that way? Would I appreciate this happening to me? Jesus challenges us to treat people as though they were a part of themselves. Always consider if you would do "that" to yourself? That may help guide your interactions with others.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** The rock vs the sand. What does the rock and the sand represent in the foundation of a person's life?

Conclusion: Ultimately, if you are a Christian, then Christ must be at the center of ALL your relationships. To follow Christ means we can't do it the way the world does it. Not an easy ask, but required none the less.