

# The Sermons of Jesus

## Lesson 4

### The Conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount

The entire thrust of the Sermon on the Mount is to show the distinction between true religion and man made false religion. In first century Israel, the contrast is between the truth being taught by Jesus and the hypocrisy of the religious establishment represented by the Pharisees. Therefore, Jesus in teaching on the conduct of those in the kingdom of heaven, said “unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees you shall not enter the kingdom”.

#### Read Matthew 7

1. The Pharisees had a self righteous, legalistic religious system that was oppressive and judgmental. In their pride they looked down on everyone who was not a part of their elite system. The corollary of self justification is condemning others. What was their evaluation of the people Jesus was ministering to (Matt 9:9-13)? What was Jesus’ response (Matt 9:12-13)?
2. Who do you think these Pharisees would have chosen back in 1 Samuel 16:6-13? Who did the Lord choose and why (1 Sam 16:7; Acts 13:22-23)?
3. What practice of the Pharisees did Jesus condemn in Matt 7:1-5? What kind of judgment is Jesus addressing in Matt 7? What did James say about this type of judgment (James 4:11-12)? Who alone can judge who is “saved or destroyed”?
4. Is it safe to say that when we judge people this way, we have an erroneous view of God, an erroneous view of others, and an erroneous view of ourselves (Matt 7:3-5, James 4:12, 2 Cor 10:18)?
5. In Matt 18:15-17; 1 Cor 5:1-2, 9-13; 2 Thes 3:14-15; Titus 3:10-11; and Galations 6:1, the church is actually commanded to “judge” fellow believers in Christ. What is the difference in this judgment and the forbidden judgment in Matt 7:1-5?

