



## **PART ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Gospel of Matthew is one of the four gospels written in the New Testament. Together with the Gospel of Mark & Luke, they are also known as the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew connects the New to the Old Testament. He records what Jesus said and put them into 5 sermons with a theme in each of them. The sermons teach us what God wants us to be and how to live in His Kingdom.

The Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew (Chapters 5, 6 & 7) is the essence of Jesus' teaching. We are not to be a "crowd" but His disciples who have the heart to learn from Him and do what He said.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. "Fake it till you make it" is the ethos in which many of us live life today. We play roles to fit the expectations of those around us in order to get their approval. What are the dangers if we start to apply the same thinking to our faith? How will it impact on the way we live?
2. How have you experienced non-Christians using parts of the Sermon on the Mount to evaluate the authenticity of Christians?
3. Jesus, in His teaching, is addressing two types of a Christian walking in two different ways. What are the illustrations that He uses? What can we learn from Jesus's teaching? Share from your experience/understanding about walking in these two ways.
4. Read Matt 7: 24-29. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.
  - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
  - ii. Read the passage aloud
  - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
    - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
    - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
    - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?

- iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
  - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
  - What is the main point or points?
  - What surprises are there?
  - What are the keywords? What words or ideas are repeated?
  
- v. Some leading questions of the text:
  - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
  - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
  - What does this teach us about God?
  - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
  
- vi. Some application questions of the passage:
  - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
  - Is there some attitude I need to change?
  - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

*How can you be sure that you have built the right foundation in the right place for your life to withstand the storms?*

5. Read Matt 7:17-11, notice the three different senses, 'ask, seek and knock' considered in the passage. In the context of Matthew 5-7, what did Jesus mean when He told us to ask, seek and knock.

*What is the evidence of a fruitful life, transformed from the inside out?*

## **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

There are 2 ways, 2 trees and 2 houses that Jesus spoke about in the Sermon on the Mount. He is addressing 2 groups of Christians. Salvation is a gift and we cannot earn it. But there is a response that God expected and desire for His disciples to have – that is to do our part to 'ask, seek and knock' to pursue Him and His ways. Playing the part will not work because we will be building our life on the external which is shallow and will crumble when we meet the storms of life. The evidence of a fruitful life is one that is transformed from the inside out.

## **CHANGE YOUR MINDSET**

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." ~ Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV)*