

# MATTHEW 7

## **DO NOT JUDGE (7:1-6)**

Blessed Theophylact on the difference between judging and correcting:

“(Christ) forbids condemning others, but not reproving others. A reproof is for another’s benefit, but condemnation expresses only derision and scorn. You may also understand that the Lord is speaking of one who, despite his own great sins, condemns others who have lesser sins of which God will be the judge.”

## **ASKING AND SEEKING (7:7-12)**

St. John Chrysostom on seeking and knocking:

“Jesus did not simply command us to ask but to ask with great concern and concentration—for this is the meaning of the word He used for ‘seek’...But by knocking Jesus meant that we approach God with intensity and passion. Therefore, O mortal, do not give up. Do not show less eagerness for virtue than desire for possessions.”

## **THE NARROW WAY AND FRUITS (7:13-23)**

St. Cyril of Alexandria on those whom Christ never knew:

“There may be some who, in the beginning, believed rightly and assiduously labored at virtue. They may have even worked miracles and prophesied and cast out demons. And yet later they are found turning aside to evil, to self-assertive deception and desire. Of these Jesus remarks that He ‘never knew them.’”

## **BUILDING ON THE ROCK (7:24-28)**

Blessed Theophylact on building your life on Christ:

“The rock is Christ and the house is the soul. Therefore nothing will shake the man who builds his soul upon the doing of Christ’s commandments. Neither the rain, which is the devil who fell from heaven, nor the rivers, which are mean and harmful men filled to overflowing by such rain, nor the winds, which are evil spirits, nor, in short, can any temptations cast down such a man.”

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)  
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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