



March 8, 2026
Series: Week 10
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Wisdom Applied – Matthew 6:25-7:12

To Apply Wisdom...

1.) Reflect on your worries. (Matt. 6:25-34)

-Jesus is inviting us to reflect on our worries:

- to find wounds we can surrender in order to receive healing, freedom, and kingdom-living clarity.
- to see them as indicators of our need for repentance for misplaced worship.
- to identify work that we must do, or that is for someone else to do, or that only God can do.

Consider:

- Take a moment to reflect on what worries have been “dominating your thoughts” (v. 32) most recently. Allow yourself to hold it out away from your feelings and emotions for a moment, in the light and love of God.
- Is this worry connected to a wound? Misplaced worship? Is there work to be done to address it? By whom?

2.) ...Begin with yourself... (Matt. 7:1-5a)

-We must learn to distinguish between wise measuring (“metron”) and personally punishing (“krino”).

- “metron”- (7:2) To measure, to purposefully evaluate.
- “krino”- (7:1) To pass judgement, primarily used to denote a process of condemnation or punishment.

-If we do not first begin with measuring our own sin, and our need for repentance and change, we can be blinded by our pride, and our hypocrisy can harm others.

-How can you identify the “log” in your eye?

- 1.) Receive the wisdom of others. (Proverbs 27:17)
- 2.) Receive the hard lessons of life. (Proverbs 26:11)

Consider:

- Would you consider yourself to be teachable? Who can you ask for help in identifying the “log” in your eye?
- What lessons have you had to learn in life the hard way? Is there more to be learned from those experiences?

3.) ...Before offering to others. (Matt. 7:5b-6)

-The process of offering wisdom and help to others must, first and foremost, be done in love. (1 Cor. 13:1-7)

-If humble, self-applied wisdom is lovingly offered to someone else, and received... (Matt. 7:5b)

- Proceed with care, patience, compassion... like you would with an eye surgery.
- Take note of holistic needs, offering help with the physical, mental/emotional, as well as the spiritual.
- Invite them into opportunities to learn more, to grow and mature, to be in a supportive community.

-If it is rejected... (Matt. 7:6)

-The followers of Jesus were going to see many different types of reactions happen to the Gospel being presented. He would later tell them to go from town to town with the message of the Kingdom, but for those who would reject it, they should shake the dust off their feet and move on (Matt. 10:14).

-Here are some truths that I return to:

- 1.) I can't change a heart.
- 2.) Their story is long.
- 3.) God loves them more than I do.

Consider:

- Have you had opportunities to share the wisdom of Jesus with someone who humbly received it? What are ways that you could offer to care for them in the next steps of their journey?
- Are there those in your life that have rejected Jesus' wisdom? How have you dealt with this? Take time to process this experience with a trusted friend, and pray together for discernment, healing, and strength.

4.) Trust the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... (Matt. 7:7-11)

-We are invited to continually ask for help in navigating the challenging work of applying wisdom.

- Surrendering Prayers (Psalm 37:4, 139:23-24, Matthew 6:9-13)

-Understand that Our Good Father only gives good things.

-“This illustration begs the question, ‘What if the child asks for a serpent?’ Verse 11 gives us the answer. He gives good things. *Only good things*. He does not give serpents to children... He will hear and He will give us good things. Sometimes just *what* we asked. Sometimes just *when* we ask it. Sometimes just *the way* we desire. And other times He gives us something better, or at a time He knows is better, or in a way He knows is better.” John Piper, “Ask Your Father in Heaven”, 2006

-There is no better gift given than the relationship with God Himself.

Consider:

- How often do you pray? When you do, how do you see and approach God? Do you believe Him to have “good gifts” for you? If not, what has made this hard to believe?
- Have you ever asked God for something, only to discover later that He had something different, and better to give to you?

5.) ...Who invite us into this Kingdom way of living. (Matt. 7:12)

-The Kingdom way of Jesus is summarized succinctly in this “Golden Rule”. It is an easy-to-remember phrase, but a hard-to-practice way of living.

Consider:

- Take a moment to do a “Golden Rule” inventory... How would you like to be treated? Would you say that these words describe how you normally treat others?
- For you “grown ups”, is it hard to see this simple phrase as being worth your time? Ask the Lord to help you discover the inner riches that He has for you as you mine its depths.