

WEEK OF MAY 3, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



*Do Not Judge/Build On the Rock
Matthew 7*

Provided by



AKRONGRACE

AKRON GRACE CHURCH
101 N. 7th Street, Akron PA
www.akrongrace.com

Listen to the full message on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@akrongracechurch6363

Matthew 7

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye?

Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you. “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets. “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

Matthew 7 (continued)

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Day 1: Beyond the Mirror

Devotional

We live in a world obsessed with pointing out flaws. Social media feeds are filled with criticism, and conversations often center on what's wrong with others. Yet Jesus challenges us to examine our own hearts first. When we become consumed with identifying faults in others, we create a dangerous blind spot in our own spiritual lives. The truth is, judging others makes us spiritually blind, while love illuminates. When we're quick to condemn, we're often avoiding the harder work of allowing God to transform us. A person who truly understands their own need for mercy becomes slower to condemn others harshly. This doesn't mean we abandon wisdom or discernment. There's a crucial difference that judgmentalism assumes superiority and tears people down, while discernment recognizes reality and makes wise choices. One builds walls while the other builds bridges. Today, God invites you to step back from the mirror you've been holding up to others and instead allow His light to reveal what needs attention in your own heart. This isn't about shame, but about freedom. When we stop being the judge, we can finally become the beloved.

Bible Verse

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged." - Matthew 7:1-2

Reflection Question

Am I more concerned with identifying sin in others or surrendering sin within myself?

Quote

When we become consistent, consumed with identifying faults in others, we stop allowing God to confront what's happening in us.

Prayer

Father, help me see my own heart clearly before I examine others. Give me the humility to receive Your mercy and extend it freely to those around me. Amen.

Day 2: The Father's Heart

Devotional

Prayer can feel complicated, but Jesus simplifies it with three powerful words, ask, seek, and knock. These aren't just religious activities, but are expressions of relationship with a Father whose heart toward us exceeds our wildest imagination. Consider the best earthly parent you know. Picture their love, their desire to give good gifts, their protective care. Now, Jesus says our Heavenly Father's love surpasses even that. Even the best human love is imperfect and incomplete, but the Father is perfectly good. This truth transforms how we approach prayer. We're not trying to convince a reluctant God to care about us. We're coming to a Father who already delights in us, who knows what we need before we ask, and who gives good gifts to His children. Kingdom life isn't self-sustaining. We don't outgrow our need for God, but deepen it day after day, moment after moment. Prayer isn't a spiritual discipline to master, but a relationship to enjoy. Your Father is listening, and His heart is good.

Bible Verse

'You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.' - Matthew 7:9-11

Reflection Question

How does knowing God as a perfectly good Father change the way I approach Him in prayer?

Quote

Even the best human love is incomplete. But the Father, He's perfectly loving.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your heart toward me is perfectly good. Help me come to You with confidence, knowing You delight in giving good gifts to Your children. Amen.

Day 3: The Golden Standard

Devotional

The Golden Rule isn't just about avoiding harm, but about actively pursuing good. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you" calls us beyond mere politeness to intentional love. Think about what you truly desire in relationships; understanding when you're struggling, encouragement when you're discouraged, forgiveness when you fail, celebration when you succeed. These aren't unreasonable wants, but God-given desires for righteous relationships. Now imagine if you became the person who consistently offered these gifts to others. What if you were known as someone who listens deeply, encourages genuinely, forgives quickly, and celebrates others' victories? This is the heart of the Golden Rule, allowing our legitimate desires for good relationships to reshape how we treat everyone around us. This isn't about perfection or people-pleasing. It's about recognizing that the love we long to receive is the same love others are hungry for. When we give what we hope to receive, we participate in God's kingdom coming to earth.

Bible Verse

'Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.' - Matthew 7:12

Reflection Question

What do I most desire to receive from others? How can I intentionally offer that same gift to someone today?

Quote

Not every voice should shape your life. Not every influence should be trusted equally. Not every heart is ready to receive the truth.

Prayer

Lord, help me see others through Your eyes and treat them with the same love and kindness I hope to receive. Make me an instrument of Your grace in every relationship. Amen.

Day 4: Two Roads Diverged

Devotional

Every day, we face a choice between two paths. The wide road is easy to drift into. It requires little self-examination, minimal surrender, and almost no transformation. It's the path of spiritual comfort, where we can look religious without being changed. The narrow road is different. It requires intention, trust, and the courage to actually follow Jesus rather than simply admire Him from a distance. This path demands that we move beyond familiarity with Jesus to genuine relationship with Him. Here's the sobering truth that it is absolutely possible to look spiritually active outwardly while remaining unchanged inwardly. We can use religious language, attend church, and even serve others while our hearts remain untransformed. Familiarity with Jesus isn't the same as belonging to Him. The narrow road isn't about perfection, but about direction. It's choosing daily surrender over self-reliance, transformation over comfort, and authentic relationship over religious performance. Which road are you walking today?

Bible Verse

'You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.' - Matthew 7:13-14

Reflection Question

Am I walking the narrow road of genuine transformation, or have I settled for the wide road of spiritual comfort?

Quote

The wide road is easy to drift into. It requires very little self examination, it requires very little surrender, and it requires almost no transformation. But the narrow road requires intention. It requires trust.

Prayer

Jesus, I choose the narrow road of following You authentically. Give me courage to surrender areas of my life I've been holding back from You. Amen.

Day 5: Built to Last

Devotional

Two builders, two foundations, two very different outcomes. Both heard Jesus' words, but only one responded with obedience. When the storms came, and they always come, the difference wasn't in the appearance of their houses but in what lay beneath. Every life encounters storms. Loss, disappointment, uncertainty, and pressure have a way of revealing whether we merely understand something or actually build our lives upon it. The wise builder isn't someone who simply heard Jesus' words, both builders heard. The difference is in the response of obedience. Jesus isn't offering temporary inspiration. He's offering a foundation that endures not just now, not just this season, but for all eternity. When everything else shakes, Christ remains steady. When other foundations crumble, He holds firm. The question isn't whether storms will come to your life, but what foundation you're building on right now. Information is easy to collect, knowledge is easy to gather, but putting truth into practice, that's where transformation happens. Build your life where it will hold. Build it on Christ alone.

Bible Verse

'Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.' - Matthew 7:24-25

Reflection Question

When pressure reveals what's underneath, what foundation will be found supporting my life?

Quote

Eventually, every foundation is tested. Rain, floodwaters, wind. In the storm, over time, pressure reveals what is underneath.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I want to build my life on the solid foundation of Your truth. Help me move beyond hearing Your words to living them out in faithful obedience. Amen.