

# DIVERGENT: *living the Sermon on the Mount*



Purpose: to live out the kingdom values of God found in the sermon like God's presence (light and love), redemptive deliverance, and restorative justice (mercy, peace and righteousness).

## → Forgoing Judgment for Forgiveness

- On Sunday, Micah talked about practicing "generosity of spirit." Jesus teaches, "Do not judge," but does he mean no ethical judgments at all?
  - READ Matthew 7:1-12
  - Jesus specifically opposes the Pharisee's judgmental and authoritarian culture.
- Forgiveness over judgment
  - Jesus' command to not judge - as if we were in a position to be judge – is directly connected to the theme of forgiveness in Jesus' Prayer.
  - READ again Matthew 6:12, 14-15
  - Jesus' prayer in verse 12 is clear that everyone has sin in need of forgiveness; but, then to be really clear, Jesus adds verses 14-15.
  - Some are shocked that Jesus taught this believing in a 'cheap forgiveness' – that God forgives us freely, without obligation. But God's way is in fact a way of deliverance. We participate in it by forgiving others...instead of extending harsh judgments.
  - How have you joined God in this restorative justice movement by forgiving others?

## → What about the false prophets in verses 15-23?

- READ Matthew 7:15-23 (cross reference: Matt. 24:9-11, 24 & Rev. 13:1-18)
- This is a warning from Jesus. There will be false prophets. But who are they? How will we know? Jesus clearly says, "By their fruit you will know them."
- In the book of Revelation, the followers of the Beast do violence and evil, but the followers of the Lamb do not. Instead, they follow the way of Jesus. Fourteen times in Revelation it says we can tell who the followers of the Lamb are because they do the deeds that Jesus taught. (Rev. 2:2, 19, 23, 26; 3:8, 10; 9:20-21; 12:17; 14:4, 12; 16:11; 19:10; 20:12-13; 22:11)
- Jesus' teaching is also a warning against evil, which coincides with the final line of his prayer – "Deliver us from evil."
- In what ways can we be known by others (and God) as good fruit?
- \*\*\*In many ways, the Sermon begins at the end. READ verses 24-29. How do you trust in God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) as your foundational rock?