

Nov. 1

NEXT STEPS



Surprise The World

"God's Heart and Our Heart"

Matthew 7:1–12

Questions to ***Dig Deeper***:

1. How we view and judge others often reveals more about our own hearts than theirs. When you find yourself reacting critically toward someone else's flaws, what might that reveal about your own spiritual insecurities or your current understanding of God's grace?

2. Jesus calls us to a standard of righteousness that exceeds the Pharisees (Matt. 5:20) and tells us to be perfect (Matt. 5:48). Bill suggested these statements highlight the impossibility of self-earned perfection. How does recognizing our inability to meet these standards change the way we relate to religious rules, personal failures, and others who stumble?

3. The "pigs and pearls" warning (Matt. 7:6) is a reminder not to force feed spiritual truths or biblical expectations onto those who do not yet know or follow God. What does it look like in everyday life to share the gospel with grace and wisdom rather than using it to judge or control non-believers?

4. Reluctance to pray often stems from a hidden belief that God is stingy, too busy, or that our needs aren't important enough. What implicit beliefs about God's character tend to hold you back from coming to Him openly in prayer? What helps you move toward viewing God as an abundant, generous Father?

5. In light of Matthew 7:12 (Do to others what you would have them do to you), consider a situation where you currently feel tempted to respond with judgment, frustration, or withdrawal. How would extending the exact grace, patience, and kindness you desire from God transform that relationship or situation?