

Speaker : **Steven Kum**
Title : **Don't Just Act Like a Christian... Be One**
Text : **Matthew 7:1-23**

INTRODUCTION

Things are not always as they seem

1. Look like the real thing
 - a. Fake paracetamol tablets from night markets
 - b. Eggs manufactured in China
 - c. Bible example - "wolves in sheep's clothing" (Matthew 7:15)
2. But lacks the effectiveness of the real thing
 - a. Illness not cured
 - b. No added value or strengthening
 - c. Biblical example "clouds without rain" (Proverbs 25:14)
3. Loses purpose of existence
 - a. Tasteless salt trampled on (Matthew 5:13)
 - b. Fig tree that appeared fruitful but was not, was cursed (Matthew 21:18-22)
 - c. Lush vine with no grapes cut off (John 15:1-3)

Jesus warned His disciples against just playing out a part rather than actually living out the part.

(Matthew 7:5)

"It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part."

SEE AS GOD SEES

(Matthew 7:1-6)

¹⁻⁵ "Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor. ⁶"Don't be flip with the sacred. Banter and silliness give no honor to God. Don't reduce holy mysteries to slogans. In trying to be relevant, you're only being cute and inviting sacrilege. ⁷⁻¹¹"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better? ¹²"Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

1. See yourself as God sees you (Matthew 7:1-5)
2. See others as God sees them (Matthew 7:1-5)
3. See God as He sees Himself (Matthew 7:6-11)

SEEK THAT WHICH HAS TRUE VALUE

(Matthew 7:13-20)

¹³⁻¹⁴"Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention. ¹⁵⁻²⁰"Be wary of false preachers who smile a lot, dripping with practiced sincerity. Chances are they are out to rip you off some way or other. Don't be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers are is the

main thing, not what they say. A genuine leader will never exploit your emotions or your pocketbook. These diseased trees with their bad apples are going to be chopped down and burned.

1. Seek God seriously (Matthew 7:13)
2. Seek character not charisma (Matthew 7:15-16)
3. Seek true spirituality not showbiz (Matthew 7:17-20)

CONCLUSION

SOAK IN THE WORD (Matthew 7:21-23)

²¹⁻²³"Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance— isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'

1. Go beyond empty parroting of the Word (Matthew 7:21)
 2. Obey the Word (Matthew 7:22)
 3. Glorify God (Matthew 7:23)
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