



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 9: MATTHEW 7:1-12

Community Group Study Guide - Week of March 21, 2021

Introduction:

- “Cancelling” famous people and brands is very common in our culture right now.
- What is the Christian response to cancel culture? We recognize that we all should be canceled, but thanks be to Jesus who came and un-canceled us. Jesus came and befriended the canceled, the rejected and dismissed. Jesus, the Son, was canceled by the Father, in order to cancel our record of indebtedness to God. From this perspective, as those who have experienced His grace, we should be careful how we judge others.

1. Christian Judging (Matthew 7:1-6)

- Is Jesus telling us to never make judgement calls? No. Jesus himself made many judgment calls during his life. Jesus is telling us that we must practice discernment in how we make judgement calls. He’s warning against condemning others and leaving no space for restoration in relationships
- Bible verses that speak about Christian judging: 1 Cor. 10:15, Mth. 7:15-20, Heb. 5:14, Matt 18:15-20, Luke 6:37, John 7:24, John 8:15, Romans 14:4, Prv. 18:13, Rom. 2:1
- Jesus wants Christians to be discerning; they should know the Bible, know the gospel and know the Lord in prayer, such that they develop something like a “sixth sense” of wisdom that helps them know what to do and how to respond in all situations.
- Jesus is warning against the kind of judgement of the pharisees. They didn’t judge in order to seek redemption, but judged in order to demean. They were highly critical of others without being honest about their own sin struggles. They were the ultimate pride-filled hypocrites of Christ’s day.
- v3-5: The speck is sin. The log is pride/self-righteousness that blinds one from valuing God and the holiness of the things of God. It gives us the same desires as “pigs” and “dogs” and clouds our ability to view and enjoy things from a Godly perspective.
- v5: The true Christian knows that he can’t take the log out of his own eye. He needs Jesus to take it out. We humbly make this judgment of ourselves, have the plank pulled out as a gift of God’s grace, and graciously try to help others, by pointing out their specks, in response.
- Practical applications for Christian judging: 1. Check your own eye. 2. Confess sins to God (and others when appropriate) 3. Learn how to take judgement; don’t bite back like a dog or a pig 4. Speak truth with love

2. Christian Asking (Matthew 7:7-11)

- Ask before we seek and seek before we knock. Asking implies humility
- Jesus slips in “if you then, who are evil” as if it is the most obvious fact in the passage. Jesus is trying to drive home that if we correctly and humbly view ourselves as sinners, then we will view all simple gifts, fortunes and favors in life as blessings. We are not in a position to pridefully or greedily demand things from God or others, or fight or bite back when our desires and/or preferences are not met.
- Matt 15:21-28, the story of the Canaanite woman who asked to eat crumbs: These verses show us the heart posture that we should have when we ask God for something: “I deserve nothing, but I can come to you and ask you for forgiveness and provision of things.” God honors the kind of persistence shown by the woman.
- What we ask for and pray for changes from “things” to God Himself as we grow in the faith. We desire the holy things and holiness of God Himself. The most fervent prayers aren’t to god but FOR God.

3. Christian Loving (Matthew 7:12)

- All of Christian morality and instruction for proper loving of others is captured in these verses.
- The same message of this verse is found in its negative form in many other religions: do not do to others what you wouldn’t want done to you.
- Christianity’s framing to the positive form, to do to others what we wish they would do to us, is unnatural. Why? It calls us to proactively and reactively love others and to be unselfish toward them.
- This should be the guiding principle for all areas of life. We can’t do this on our own. We must look to the gospel to do it. We see, “Jesus Christ is the only person who has really put himself in my place. He did so in order to bring about my forgiveness on the cross. He has shown me how to do it, and I cannot but help to do it for others.”
- When we realize what Christ has done for us, we love Him and spiritual things, and have the ability to seek restoration, instead of cancellation, when people sin against us in this life.
- Psalm 22:16-20: Cancelling started with Jesus. The dogs who crucified Him didn’t see that He was treasure. He still, however, wanted to forgive them.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that we should be discerning and careful when we make judgements.

Heart

To maintain a posture of humility in our engagements with God and other people.

Hands

To extend love and grace to others in the same way that we want it to be extended to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Baptism Seminar will be held on March 28 at 1PM.** Email admin@mosaicboston.com if you plan to attend.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to **sign up for a service team.**

This **Sunday, March 28**, we will hold a **Prayer Service at 5PM.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:1-12

1. Can someone take a minute to summarize the key points of the sermon?
2. The ancient Greek word used for "judge" in these verses, "krino," can be translated to mean "to discern" or "to condemn." What is the difference between practicing discernment toward others and condemning others?
3. How are Christians TO judge?
4. How does "Christian judging" differ from the kind of judgement that takes place in our society?
5. Are there any people or groups of people that you have "canceled"? How are you inclined to change your treatment of that person or group by this passage?
6. **Read verse 6:** Should Christians ever characterize somebody as a "pig" or a "dog" in evangelism or discipleship? Discuss.
7. What does the story of the prophet Nathan's rebuke of King David (2 Sam. 12:1-6) reveal about the dangers of leaving a log in one's own eye unaddressed for a long time?
8. How does asking Jesus to remove the plank in our eye prepare us to point out the speck in the eye of a brother or sister?
9. **Read verse 11.** Jesus says with much assurance that we are "evil." What did he mean by these words? How does thinking of ourselves as "evil" impact the way that we approach others during conflict and approach God in prayer?
10. **Read verse 12.** Many other religions and philosophies would rephrase the command in verse 12 to say negatively, "do not do to others what you wouldn't want done to you." How is the positive framing of this command in the Christian way a higher call for a person?

Throughout the week, meditate on the following verses about Christian judging: 1 Cor. 10:15, Mth. 7:15-20, Heb. 5:14, Matt 18:15-20, Luke 6:37, John 7:24, John 8:15, Romans 14:4, Prv. 18:13, Rom. 2:1