

SERIES: MISSION 2022
SERMON: JUDGING BLIND PART 2
2-6-22

OPENER:

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

³ “*And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?* ⁴ *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?* ⁵ *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.*

It’s one of the most misused, misquoted, misunderstood verses in the Bible. When someone wants to justify their life choices to you, they pull out their trump card, “Don’t judge me”! Then they drop the mic.....expecting you to immediately embrace their wrong lifestyle choice.

Jesus goes on to say.....*Vs. 2: (NLT) For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.*

The Greek word, “judge” here means to: to separate, to divide, to come to a decision , to condemn, punish, to take revenge, to draw a conclusion

So, Jesus is saying.....Do not.....

> condemn someone (pass a sentence; that’s what they deserve)

> or punish someone

> or take your revenge against someone

> or draw quick conclusions about someone

Or I will judge you in the same way! condemn, punish and pay your back for your wrongs!

JESUS WARNS THAT THE DANGER IN PASSING JUDGMENT ON OTHERS IS THAT
WE’LL HAVE OUR OWN STANDARD
COME BACK ON US.

IF WE DEAL HARSHLY WITH OTHERS GOD WILL DEAL HARSHLY WITH US.

The fact is, we never know all the facts.

- How do we know the idiot driver didn’t just lose his spouse last week?
- How do we know the rude saleswoman didn’t just discover she has cancer?
- How do we know the Christian who cussed didn’t just accept Jesus and is working out their old habits with the help of the Holy Spirit?

We need to tap the brakes on our judgment—especially when we don’t know all the facts? Before we call into question someone else’s walk with God, we should scrutinize our own.

**WE ARE JUDGING OTHERS BLINDLY.
TRYING TO REMOVE THE SPECK OUT OF THIER EYE WHEN WE HAVE HAVE A PLANK
IN OUR OWN.**

**WE PASS JUDGEMENT ACCORDING TO OUR OWN STRENGTHS AND OPINIONS.
WE CAN'T SEE HOW GOD SEES.
HIS JUDGMENT IS PERFECT AND OURS IS TERRIBLY SKEWED BY OUR OWN SIN.**

WAYS WE JUDGE BLIND:

Object Lesson:

Water in different containers.

1. WE JUDGE BY APPEARANCE

1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT) But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

"People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

God spoke this verse to Samuel the prophet. The Lord had commanded Samuel to visit Jesse to anoint one of his sons as king. When Samuel arrived, he saw Eliab, the oldest, and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel sent for him, and when David arrived, the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

The Bible says we can't judge what is in someone's heart.

> We may assign bad motives to someone who ignores us when, in reality, they are fighting hidden battles.

> Or maybe someone who is rude has just learned their spouse is unfaithful or their child has leukemia—or both.

> Or we may project good motives on someone in order to avoid conflict.

> We may assume the late mom is irresponsible. But she may be a single mother working two jobs and tending to a special needs child.

**TO JUDGE ANOTHER PERSON BASED ONLY ON HOW THEY LOOK SHOWS PRIDE.
ONLY GOD KNOWS WHAT IS IN A PERSON'S HEART AND THE EFFORT IT TAKES TO
FUNCTION WHERE THEY ARE.**

STORY:

A conference speaker misjudged a man who sat on the front row and slept through most of his ministry. Obviously, the speaker thought, this man lacks spiritual interest. But his assessment flipped 180 degrees when the man's wife came upon to him after he had

finished and told him that her husband was very ill and heavily medicated. He'd begged his doctor for permission to come that weekend to hear his favorite speaker.

ILLUSTRATION: LABELING

Have you ever *labeled* someone in your mind as a result of a first impression? When we label people, it limits how we care about others, how we treat people, and how we share God's love.

Cool.
Loner.
Mean
Pretty.
Lazy
Smart.
Athletic.
Slow
Depressed
Awkward
Weird
Nerdy.
Loud.
Lazy
Shy.
Dramatic.
Friendly.
Sinner

AS HUMANS WE LABEL THINGS. WE CATEGORIZE THINGS. IT'S JUST WHAT WE DO.
BUT HUMAN LABELS ARE OPINION- NOTHING MORE.
GOD'S LABELS ARE FACT - NOTHING LESS.

STORY:

The first time a young girl in college saw her husband, he had a black eye. Her immediate thought was, *He sure is cute, but I'll bet he's trouble. I better stay away from him.* Later, she learned the real reason behind his questionable appearance. He was a college athlete and the black eye was from playing competitively during practice earlier that day. They laugh about it now. What if I had let my inaccurate assumption about him prevent him from becoming her husband? What a tragedy that would have been to my now-happy family of four.

IT'S SO EASY TO ASSUME THAT WE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM US, SO WE DON'T MAKE AN EFFORT TO CONNECT AT ALL.

WHAT KIND OF MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP COULD GOD BE TRYING TO GIVE YOU IF YOU WOULD LOOK PAST APPEARANCES?

John 7:24 (NLT) Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly."

2. WE JUDGE OTHERS WHO PRACTICE THEIR FAITH IN WAYS DIFFERENT THAN US

We aren't to judge believers who practice their faith in ways different than us. We may decide someone is spiritually immature because they don't pray, dress, or practice faith the way we do.

ILLUSTRATION:

- > Maybe you don't like the Scripture tattoo she wears on her ankle
- > Or that he won't pray aloud in group.
- > You may think that because that they don't listen to the same worship music you do they aren't as spiritual as you are.
- > Maybe you think that because they never raise their hands that they aren't as close to God as you are.
- > Maybe you think someone doesn't really know God because they believe women don't wear pants or cut their hair or never wear makeup.
- > Maybe you think that because they play the organ in their church that they aren't experiencing the Holy Spirit like you are.

(Explain scripture)

The Corinthians were not sure whether it was OK for Christians to eat meat. It's not that they vegans. It's that most of the meat being sold in the marketplace was meat that had been used in pagan worship of false gods. The pagan priests would sacrifice the animal to Zeus or Apollo or whoever. They would burn part of the animal on the altar, but the rest of it would be cut up and sold. So when the Corinthians went to their version of Walmart there was a pretty good chance that the lamb chops and the ribeye steaks were from an animal that had been sacrificed to an idol.....

1 Corinthians 8:1-4 (NLT) Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. ² Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. ³ But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes. ⁴ So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God.

Vs. 7-9 However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated. ⁸ It's true that we can't win God's approval by what we eat. We don't lose anything if we don't eat it, and we don't gain anything if we do.

⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.

(Explain scripture)

Paul begins by referring to the group in the church who is ok with eating meat sacrificed to idols and he quotes them as saying "all of us possess knowledge." They are referring to knowing that these idols are nothing and that there is only one God. For them this "knowledge" allows them to eat meat sacrificed to the idols, but Paul confronts the heart attitude behind it when he corrects them, "knowledge puffs up but love builds up". Paul is telling us that our knowledge of theology should match with our love for other believers in our church community.

**WE CAN BE TOTALLY RIGHT AND TOTALLY WRONG
AT THE SAME TIME.**

**KNOWLEDGE BRINGS FREEDOM WHICH IS RIGHT.
BUT OUR FREEDOM SHOULD NEVER BE USED TO JUDGE ANOTHER BELIEVER WHICH
IS WRONG.**

- We should be aware of each other's weaknesses; stumbling blocks that can lead people back into destructive sin patterns.
- We should be sensitive to each other's conscience. What could be right for you could be totally wrong for someone else.
- We need to choose love over knowledge. This only happens when we humble ourselves, lay down our pride and care about each other deeply.

**THERE ARE ABSOLUTES IN OUR FAITH.
THESE NEVER CHANGE.**

**SIN WILL ALWAYS BE SIN AND WE JUDGE SIN,
BUT WE NEVER JUDGE EACH OTHER BASED ON PREFERENCE OR PERSONAL
CONSCIENCE.**

3. WE JUDGE BASED ON RACE, GENDER, AGE, WEALTH AND STATUS

James 2:1-4 (NLT) My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? ² For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. ³ If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, ⁴ doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

**FAVORITISM SHOULD NEVER TO BE A PART OF THE OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.
IF WE FAVOR SOME PEOPLE OVER OTHERS THEN HOW CAN WE CLAIM TO HAVE
FAITH IN JESUS?**

Galatians 3:28. (NLT) There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION:

We all like to look good! We do this with people too. We like to adorn our lives with pretty people, successful people, people who have a good reputation, people who make a lot of money. The reason we do this is because it makes us look better and we feel better about ourselves. The underlying motivation in all of this is that we are trying to find our worth in those we befriend. We are not secure in who we are.

>Jesus knelt down in the dirt with the prostitute.

>Jesus chose to visit the house of the guy with the worst reputation in town.

>Jesus asked a cheating tax collector to be one of his close friends.

- > Are you embarrassed to talk to someone in Walmart who isn't very popular or isn't dressed well or has a bad reputation?
- > When you meet someone do you form an opinion of them based on their job or the car they drive.
- > Do you immediately size someone up because of the color of their skin?
- > Do you say, "They're too young, they're too old, a woman should know her place, all men are like that?"

CLOSING:

Do you want God to deal with you the way you pass judgment on others?

- **Let's ask God to remove the plank from our eyes.**
- **Ask God to remove the prejudices that block your vision. Ask God for discernment. God promises "everyone who asks receives."**
- **Ask God to help you look beneath the surface into someone's heart.**