

We now continue in our sermon on the mount series with probably one of the most mis-quoted and misinterpreted text in the world... it is usually said like this... “DO NOT JUDGE.”

Did Jesus say “Do not judge?” If He did what did He mean by that? Are we commanded not to judge?

I pray I will be able to put this subject to rest in your hearts. So instead of getting the cliff note interpretation of this text let's look at it in full context...

7 “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³ And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

NOW LETS DISECT THIS...

7 “Judge not, that you be not judged.

A) Is this a statement of fact. That if I do not judge anyone, I will not be judged?

Can a person go through life without judging anyone or is there more? Will I stand before God on that day and not be judged because I have not judged?

Is it even possible to not judge?

Well, let's look further...

² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

A) Ok. Now we get a little more. How you judge others you will be judged. So then, is this a statement of fact? That you will be judged the way you judge others?

B) So could the judging be more like... Do not judge in a way that you yourself would not want to be judged?

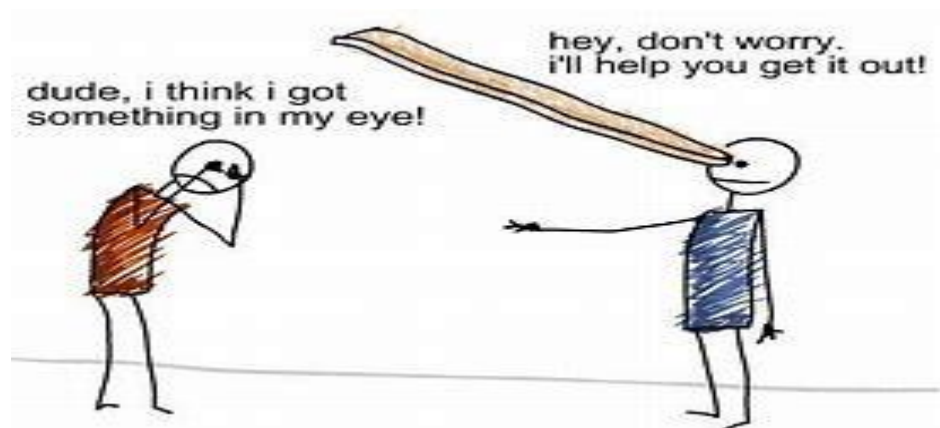
C) So, if I walk around judging no one and being very liberal about the way I live, does that mean I can do what I want and not be judged?

In other words, if I have no expectations or standards would I be treated the same?

If I do not judge someone in sin, would I not be judged for my sin?

Well, let's look further...

³ And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.



A) Ok. We are now getting a little more clarity at the context. It seems like there are specks and there are planks. These obviously mean sin or weaknesses.

If my brother has a speck (sin) in his eye, it is hard to remove that speck when I have a plank (sin) in my own eye. This can mean two things:

1. If I live in sin, I will not care or be able to see sin in other people's life.
2. If I live in sin and complain and moan about the sin that other people have without dealing with the sin in my own life, then I am a hypocrite.

So, we are given a conclusion: Deal with the plank in your eye so that you can help your brother with his. So, the answer is, we are not given a blank “thou shalt not judge.” Rather we are given, do not judge unrighteously or with hypocrisy. We are called to remove the plank or sin out of our life to help others with theirs.

Here are a few texts to confirm this understanding of the text.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

- A) A person who lives a life of sin may not be inclined to help others because they may feel unworthy and so become useless. A person who has sin in their life and is trying to remove it will be able to help others in the same journey.



Here is also other scripture to help us understand how to judge righteously.

We must rely on the Holy Spirit to help us judge. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; **to another discerning of spirits;**

We are also instructed...

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; **but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.** (18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (20) **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 But now I have written unto you **not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.** (12) For what have I to do

to judge them also that are without? **do not ye judge them that are within?** (13) But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore **put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

Romans 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.** (18) **For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ,** but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Shall I also add that Jesus judged the money changers, the Pharisees and others.

All these text contradict the narrative that people in this world like to yell out. “Thou shall not judge!”

Rather it is Jesus who says,

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but **judge righteous judgment.**

We continue...

6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Now this statement seems to be a loose statement, but it is not. It is very connected.

Giving what is Holy to the dogs is giving advice, counsel, or pointing out sin to someone who is wicked in heart and rebellious. They are prideful and will not take what you say.

Instead they will take your advice and turn it on you.

A wise person who is rebuked takes counsel and receives correction, but a fool rejects it.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Proverbs 9:7-8 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a

wicked man getteth himself a blot. (8) Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Jesus then continues on...

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

I want to exegesis this in context...

In the gospel of Luke, this text is concluded with the following:

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

This may help explain Matthew 7... good things
G18 to them that askG154 him? G846

The Word used good thins is G18 and means only “good”. Translators added the word things. While this is true God does give us good things the Good that Jesus is talking about is the Holy Spirit.

Now let me eisegesis the text so that we can see this also in our prayer life...

A) Prayer is important in a believer's life. It recognizes God’s work in their life. Some people may say that if God knows what you need why do we need to pray. The mechanics of prayer allows you to recognize it is God who provides. Let me explain. Parents, you will get this... Every week many of you go shopping and fill your refrigerator with food. Every day your children go to the refrigerator and open it up and eat the food. While your children recognize there is food in the fridge, very rarely will you receive thanks for shopping or bringing us food. You are taken for

granted and the hard work of **going shopping** is overlooked and not truly appreciated.

B) Now imagine not getting food or providing food until your family asks. Then you go out shopping and bring in the food and fill up the fridge. The moment you walk into the house with the groceries you are appreciated. You are recognized and they know you are the one who provided the food for them. If you're blessed you may even get a hug, a thank you, and a kiss on the check and even a tip. I mean we tip food delivery drivers for bringing us our food. Parents should get some kind of tip from their children.

C) When we pray and God provides, we come to realize that it is God.

James 4:2-3 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. (3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 1:5-6 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

¹² Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- A) A verse that seems out of place, but the scripture is tone deaf. In other words we read but forget emphasis and pauses and expression.
- B) Jesus sums up a majority of what He said by saying in short, how you treat others and how you look at other people will determine how you look to God and how God will look at you. Whether its forgiveness, your treasure, or your prayer life and asking and receiving, they are all tied to the responsibility of the believer to treat others like they want to be treated. A person cannot disconnect their actions to

others and their life on earth to how God will treat them.

James 2:14-17 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ ^[c] Because narrow *is* the gate and ^[d] difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

You Will Know Them by Their Fruits

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

I Never Knew You

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Build on the Rock

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.