

MATTHEW 7 1-6 "LOG EYE"

THREE TIMES in 10 verses Jesus **COMMANDS** us not to worry...

Verse 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life"

Verse 31 "Therefore do not worry"

Verse 34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow"

No doubt these commands are the most disobeyed in all the Scripture.

OVER 400 times God's word commands us not to worry or be anxious.

Church, worry is not a weakness, it's a sin!

KIERKEGAARD SAID IT WELL: "No Grand Inquisitor has in readiness such terrible tortures as anxiety."

The word "**WORRY**" is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning to **strangle** or to **choke**. It chokes out all that is good!

REMEMBER, worry is **Irresponsible**, **irrelevant** **AND IRREVERENT**.

PRAY Chapter 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. 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.

While our previous teaching about not worrying is the **most disobeyed** this teaching is probably the **most misunderstood**.

Point out that living together is a sin or calling out someone on a lie... Here come the words, **“JUDGE NOT, THAT YOU BE NOT JUDGED”**: But most the people who quote this verse don't understand what Jesus said. **THEY SEEM TO THINK JESUS COMMANDED A UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF ANY LIFESTYLE OR TEACHING. NOT TRUE!**

The Greek word translated “judge” is **KRINO**, which means **“to judge to the place of condemnation.”** It's making a judgment about their eternal state. None of us can make the call if another is saved or not saved. On the other hand we are called to make judgments...

The reasons this text cannot be made to say that we are never to judge are **QUITE SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS**. Look at the ending verse of this section verse 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.”

They don't bark or oink about; so a Judgment must be made to who are the dogs and who are the pigs.

Matthew 7:15-16 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

“A false prophet is not going to wear a badge that says, “false prophet” – this verse requires that we make a judgment.

In Romans 16:17, Paul instructs the early church to mark the man who causes division.

If my judgments are based on Scripture, then it's not me doing the judging – **it's God's Word**. Christians have an obligation to exercise critical judgment! What Jesus is instructing is don't be hypercritical and have a condemning spirit. You don't have the power to judge salvation.

The Christian is called to unconditionally love. But the Christian is not called to **unconditional approval**.

Jesus drives His point home... **verse 2...** For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

I like what Hughes says, "If we set ourselves as authorities and judges over others, we should not be surprised or complain when we are judged by our own standard."

We judge others by one standard, and ourselves by another standard - being far more generous to ourselves than others. "Faults are like headlights – the other car's headlights always seem more glaring than your own."

Two judgments for eternity...

Great White Throne... separation of believers and non-believers. Matthew 25:31-46. Sheep and the goats...

GOATS... Never received the free gift of God. Never surrendered their life for Jesus to cover their sins with His blood. Goats will be eternally separated from the loving God that made them.

SHEEP... The redeemed... forgiven and free. No judgment of sin but the things they did here will be.

2 Cor. 5 10-11 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

Judgmental believers will suffer great loss in their rewards. Who would pray, "God judge me the way I judge others?"

According to the teaching of some rabbis in Jesus' time, God had two measures that He used to judge people. One was a **measure** of **justice** and the other was a **measure** of **mercy**. Which **measure** do you want God to use with you? Then you should use that same **measure** with others.

verse 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?

Ludicrous, sarcastic and hilarious...

“PLANK”... some translate **LOG** Huge piece of wood.

“SPECK”... small piece of sawdust

A good example of this kind of hypocrisy was David’s reaction to Nathan’s story about a man who unjustly stole and killed another man’s lamb. The prophet Nathan came to him and said, “David, we have a problem. There’s a rich man who has all sorts of sheep. Someone came to visit him, and instead of going out to his own herds and taking one of his own lambs, this rich man went to his neighbor who was very poor, grabbed his neighbor’s one and only lamb, and killed it to serve his guest.”

Outraged, David said, “What? The man who has done this thing shall surely die!” The Old Testament Law never prescribed death as the penalty for this kind of transgression. Yet, with **BLOOD VESSELS BURSTING** and finger pointing, David said, “**KILL HIM!**”

Then Nathan said, “David, you are that man. It’s you. **You have many wives and concubines**, yet you stole Uriah’s wife, Bathsheba, and you took her into your house. David you are that man.”

David was so quick to give excessive judgment **WHY?** **Because we’re always harshest with the sin in others that also lurks within our own hearts.**
Jimmy Swaggart.

And Jesus is saying, “If you see splinters in others, realize it’s a splinter off the beam that is in your own eye.” **Once You deal with me, Lord, my attitude will be entirely different as I deal with others.** Story of David and Nathan (2 Samuel 12).

James in chapter 3 addresses the unruly mucus membrane called the tongue...

After **massaging** our imaginations with analogies like **Horses** being directed by small bridles... little **rudders** steering large ships... small **sparks** setting forests on fire, he **graphically** states that the tongue is, “**set on fire by hell**”... Present participle meaning **Continually** set on fire by hell...

Jesus used this same word for hell in Mark 9 verse 48, “Gehenna”... ‘*Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.*’

A place of fire and filth and "Gehenna" is derived from the forever burning garbage dump outside of Jerusalem...

You may have heard the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me"... **It is a gross lie**

The Human tongue is approximately 2 ounces and it's powerful devastation is seen from the time we can form words.

Kids hear negative all day long! Do this, do that, what's wrong with you, is that your face or did your neck throw up?

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. God help me!!! **Let my teeth** act as bars to hold this unruly force at bay...

Even Pastors are not exempt from the power of critical spirits. Richard DeHaan, in his book *Men Sent from God* shares many of these such attacks.

If the pastor is young... he lacks experience.

If his hair is grey he's too old for the young people

IF HE HAS MORE THAN 4 CHILDREN HE IS IRRESPONSIBLE

If he has no children he is setting a bad example

If he uses a lot of illustrations, he neglects the Bible

If he does not use enough, he is not relevant

If he condemns wrong deeds he is judgmental

If he does not he is compromising.

If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation

If he drives a new one, he's living too high on the hog.

A young man wanted to be married, every time he brought home a prospective wife his mom criticized her unmercifully. The young man was at

his wit's end when a friend told him find a girl just like his mom. He found someone just like her, she looked like her, she talked like her, she walked like her, she even thought like her. A real clone! He took her home to meet the family.

Next time he saw his friend who gave him the advice and was asked how much his mother liked the girl, the guy answered, "It went great. My mom loved her, but my dad couldn't stand her."

Verse 5 Jesus gets pretty excited and says, Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. *Jesus is not saying you shouldn't help the brother who has a splinter in his eye. Instead, He is saying to make sure you recognize and deal with the beam in your own eye first. "Create in me a clean heart, O God," David prayed. "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways"*

Marriage prayer... "Lord Begin With Me" Broken marriages begin to mend and communication is reestablished when one of the partners is willing to make a breakthrough and say, "Lord, begin with me. I am the one who needs to change, to love more deeply and more wisely." Even if you think your spouse is 100% wrong, when you stand in the presence of Christ you will begin to see that you, too, have shortcomings. You will discern where you have failed to accept responsibility for the marital relationship, and you will be able to say, "God, change me."

The Christian is committed to follow Christ who went all the way in love, all the time. So, for a start, stop demanding that your partner change his ways. Let God start changing you.

The removal of a speck from someone else's eye is delicate surgery...

Galatians 6 verse 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load.

We must be humble, prayed up and broken over the hurt the sin has caused our sister or brother. We need God's mercy!

Are you willing to walk through the process of healing? **Do I have the right to point out someone's dirty feet unless I'm willing to kneel down and wash them.**

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. **To be effective in ministry, we must make judgments—not for condemnation, but for identification. Is this person open? Is he sensitive? Is he hungry? Or does he just want to argue and discuss endlessly? The Lord loves to see us effective, and Satan would love to see us sidetracked.** Of course, Jesus did not say this to discourage us from sharing the gospel. He says this to call us to discernment, and to encourage us to look for prepared hearts.

Too often we pigeon-hole and stereotype folks. Generalizations need to be avoided. Never judge based on appearance, or try to assume a person's motive. I don't care how good your eyesight is, you can't see into another person's heart. If you make assumptions and draw ill-informed conclusions about other people, don't be surprised when other people make the same assumptions about you.

1 Cor. 13 verses 4-8 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails.

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