

# July 13, 2025 Sermon Takehome Handout

## Getting Your Vision Right: Judgment, Self-Examination, and Wisdom - Matthew 7:1-6

### Today's Key Scripture

Matthew 7:1-6 (NIV)

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

### Main Points

#### I. The Mirror Before the Magnifying Glass (vv. 1-2)

Key Principle: Self-examination must precede evaluation of others

Questions for Reflection:

- What motivates my criticism of others?
- Am I quick to condemn or quick to restore?
- How do I want God to judge me?

#### II. The Plank and the Speck: Self-Examination First (vv. 3-5)

Key Principle: Humility and clarity enable us to help others effectively

Steps for Biblical Restoration:

1. Examine yourself first
2. Approach with gentleness and love
3. Seek restoration, not condemnation
4. Help others see clearly

#### III. Wisdom in What We Share (v. 6)

Key Principle: Discern spiritual readiness before sharing deep truths

Four Types of Hearts (Matthew 13:1-23):

- Hard hearts (path) - closed to truth
- Shallow hearts (rocky ground) - receive but fall away
- Distracted hearts (thorns) - worldly concerns dominate
- Receptive hearts (good soil) - ready to receive and bear fruit

## Additional Scripture References

### On Judging Others:

- Romans 2:1-3 - We condemn ourselves when we judge others
- James 4:11-12 - Don't slander or judge fellow believers
- 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 - Wait for God's judgment

### On Self-Examination:

- Galatians 6:1-2 - Restore others gently while watching yourself
- Psalm 139:23-24 - Ask God to search your heart
- 1 John 1:8-9 - Confess your own sins regularly
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourself to see if you're in the faith

### On Gentle Restoration:

- Ephesians 4:15 - Speak truth in love
- Proverbs 27:5-6 - Wounds from a friend can be trusted
- Philippians 2:3-4 - Value others above yourself

### On Wise Sharing:

- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 - Milk vs. solid food based on maturity
- Hebrews 5:11-14 - Some need elementary truths first
- Proverbs 9:7-8 - Don't rebuke mockers; rebuke the wise
- Colossians 4:5-6 - Be wise with outsiders; speak with grace
- 1 Peter 3:15 - Answer with gentleness and respect

## This Week's Application

### Daily Self-Examination Questions:

1. Monday: What planks do I need to remove from my own eye?
2. Tuesday: How can I approach someone with gentleness instead of judgment?
3. Wednesday: What type of heart am I encountering in my conversations?
4. Thursday: Am I sharing truth with love and wisdom?
5. Friday: How can I be an instrument of restoration this week?

### Practical Steps:

- Before correcting someone: Spend time in prayer and self-examination
- When sharing truth: Ask, "Is this person ready for this truth?"
- In conflict: Seek to understand before seeking to be understood
- With unbelievers: Share appropriately based on their spiritual readiness

## Memory Verse

Galatians 6:1 - "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."

# Discussion Questions for Small Groups

1. Personal Reflection: What's the difference between righteous judgment and condemning judgment? How can we tell the difference in our own hearts?
2. Application: Share an example (without naming names) of when someone approached you with correction in a loving way vs. a condemning way. What was the difference?
3. Wisdom in Sharing: How do we balance Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" with His warning not to "cast pearls before swine"?
4. Self-Examination: What are some practical ways to regularly examine our own hearts and motives?
5. Restoration: How can our small group create a culture where gentle restoration is normal and welcomed?

## Prayer for the Week

Lord, give us eyes to see ourselves clearly, hearts to help others humbly, and wisdom to know when and how to share Your truth. Help us to be people of grace and discernment who seek restoration over condemnation. Make us instruments of Your peace and love. Amen.

## For Further Study

- Read Matthew 18:15-20 for Jesus' teaching on church discipline
- Study 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 for Paul's approach to judgment within the church
- Explore Proverbs 27:5-6, 17 for wisdom on faithful friendship
- Consider James 5:19-20 on restoring those who wander from truth

## Final Takeaway

The goal of correction is not condemnation but restoration, not judgment but love, not winning but healing.