

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Judging Others

With Gerrit Nieuwoudt

August 25, 2024



Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV) “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.”

- **Jesus prohibits personal condemnation, not moral discernment.**

James 4:11: “there is only one lawgiver and judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.”

- **Jesus gives us an alternative to condemning.**

1) **Take care of yourself first.**

John 8:7 “Let anyone of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

2) **We ought to approach others from a place of love and humility.**

3) **God’s judgment is rooted in redemption.**

John 8:9-10 “where are you accusers? Are there any left? Did not even one condemn you? No, Lord, she replied. And Jesus said, neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

BIG IDEA: Reflect Jesus by offering grace, not condemnation.



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Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Judging Others
#20 of 26 - August 25, 2024

- 1) What has been your experience feeling judged or being accused of judging someone?
- 2) Read Matthew 7:1-5. What is the **Context** for these passages? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) What is the difference between judging others with condemnation and having moral discernment as a follower of Christ? Why is there so much confusion related to this in our culture and churches?
- 6) What is Jesus referencing when he talks about the “speck & the log”. Why is humility and love so important when we approach a person about something we see in their life that is not good, helpful, or honouring to God? How does the story of the woman caught in adultery help us walk this out. (John 8:7)
- 7) How does the cross of Christ which embodies the fulness of Grace & Truth help us as we seek to bless others with grace and not condemn them with judgement?
- 8) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? In what ways can you apply the teachings of Jesus today?



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