



## Does the bible really say?

### Part 2: "Judge not, lest ye be judged!"

Tonight, we continue with another culturally common saying that is taken from the bible. This saying in the vernacular comes from part of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7, the greatest sermon ever preached, by the greatest Preacher who ever lived, Jesus. This is one of the most well-known and misunderstood passages of God's Word, one that is often claimed and quoted by believers and non-believers alike. Join me as we explore the truth about what Scripture really says.

**Matthew 7:1-2;** *"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."*

#### 1. A **blanket prohibition**? (vs. 1)

- **Vs. 1**; *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."*
- First, let's ask the question: ***who is this prohibition written to?***
- Primarily directed to **believers**, but this is a **universal** principle.
- Jesus' teaching zeroed in on the problem of self-righteousness & pride.
- The Pharisees were considered the **pinnacle** of righteousness in the time of Christ. They also saw themselves as the judges of the common Jewish people, those less righteous than themselves, and especially better and more virtuous than any of the Gentiles.
- Jesus peeled back the **veneer** of righteousness that the Pharisees covered themselves in and revealed their absolute moral **bankruptcy**.
- We must understand that Jesus was not issuing a **blanket** rule that people are not to judge. The rest of the passage **enlightens** us on proper judgment.

#### 2. Judged by the **same standard** (vs. 2)

- **Vs. 2**; *"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

- It's not an **overstatement** to say that judging others is the most common of human traits. No one is **exempt** from judging others.
- We make small judgments about others every day based on their appearance, their intelligence, their words, and their attitudes.
- Most of those **false** judgments are made with **flawed** knowledge.
- We may think we are right and well-founded in our judgment, but often we are only looking at **surface**-level things.
- God **searches** the **heart**. **1 Samuel 16:7b**; *"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*
- **Motives** are not **hidden** from the Lord. **Proverbs 16:2**; *"All man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD."*
- Therefore, God's judgment is the only **perfect** judgment.
- We must, therefore, be careful when judging. The kind of judgment we make, and how we measure it out to others, will be used towards us.

### 3. Judge with **humility** (vs. 3-5)

- **Vs. 3**; *"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?"*
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was outlining what God's Kingdom **citizens** look like! Turn the other cheek. Give more than is asked of you. Pray for your persecutors. Forgive those who sin against you.
- Jesus was countering the Pharisees' tendency to take spiritual **truth** and create spiritual **superiority**.
- Our **pride** causes us to judge and **criticize** others, which makes us feel better about ourselves.
- **James 4:11-12**; *"Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and destroy. But you, who are you to judge your neighbor?"*
- A true servant of God sees themselves more clearly than they observe others. We should recognize our own sinfulness and desperate need for the mercy and grace of God. How can we think ourselves better?
- **Philippians 2:3**; *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."*
- The biblical role of correct spiritual judgment is to **serve** others, not harm them. How could we ever help anyone else if we can't 'see' clearly?

- **Vs. 4;** *“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?”*
- Avoid two **extremes** in self-examination:
  - a. **Shallow** examination- failing to fully examine our hearts & motives. This allows blindness to your true condition and an abuse of the grace of Jesus.
  - b. **Perpetual** autopsy- becoming unbalanced about how ‘bad’ you are. This agrees with the condemnation of the enemy and negates the effects of the grace and mercy of the blood of Jesus.
- Instead, grow in spiritual **discernment** in several ways:
  - a. Pray for humble eyes to see yourself as God sees you.
  - b. Pray for servant eyes to see others as God sees them.
  - c. Pray for spiritual eyes to see needs before they are apparent.
  - d. Know the Word of God, so you can biblically identify ‘logs’ and ‘specks’ in your eyes or others.
  - e. Repent regularly when you fail in judging others sinfully.
- **Vs. 5;** *“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.”*



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