

Criticism

Jesus' View of Judging

Matthew 7:1–6

Bob Hamilton
January 5, 2020



Matthew 7:1–4

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye?

Matthew 7:5–6

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Matthew 7:1–4

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye?



Could Jesus be warning us not to be formal judges or take on one of the professions of judgment? Not to be referees in a formal dispute?

Luke 6:37–38

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; **forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.**

Luke 6:39–41

He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man **lead a blind man**? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is **fully trained will be like his teacher**. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Matthew 7:1–4

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye?

Could Jesus be encouraging us not to judge but rather to forgive?

Not to be pointing out faults when we have greater faults that disqualify us?

Instead can we just point others to Jesus?

Matthew 7:5–6

You **hypocrite**, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Do not give **dogs** what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before **pigs**, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Jesus does want...

- Compassion for those who are in peril, in need of deliverance rather than condemnation**
- Self-judgment, confession of hypocrisy, and self-correction in view of future judgment**
- Gracious ministry of help and love, not criticism**
- Clear discernment of what ministry is needed in each circumstance**

**But how can I accomplish all of that
when I am likely to have “logs” in
my eyes or am myself blind?**

1 Corinthians 5:12–13 & 6:2b–3

For **what have I to do with judging outsiders?** Is it not those **inside the church whom you are to judge?** God judges those outside. **“Purge the evil person from among you.”** ... [I]f the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, **matters pertaining to this life!**

James 4:11–12

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.

The **one who speaks against a brother** or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But **if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.** But who are you to judge your neighbor?

James 2:12–13

So speak and so act as **those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.**
Mercy triumphs over judgment.

How are we to judge without judging?

- Do not displace the True Judge
- Acknowledge His right to require justice now within His church
- Distinguish between people whom God desires to save and justice that must be kept
- Reflect God's mercy in our imperfect efforts at enforcing His justice