

Discussion Guide: May 5, 2024

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Message: *Judging Rightly* (series: *Sermon On The Mount*)

PRIMARY PASSAGES (ESV):

Matthew 7:-6: *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? 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.*

Galatians 6:1: *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. -*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHT

Jesus said, "Don't have a judgmental attitude" for three reasons: 1) We will have to give an account for our judgmental attitude to God 2) Our judgment of others reflects God's judgment of us and 3) So we can see clearly to help our brothers and sisters in Christ live rightly. Jesus also warns us, "Don't have an undiscerning spirit" and to entrust non-believers to Jesus by 1) living justly 2) showing mercy and 3) praying fervently.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you felt judged either fairly or unfairly. What was the situation, and how did it feel to be judged?
2. In Matthew 7:1-5, Jesus shows us how to conduct ourselves when sin is present in the lives of others. Do you find it easier to look at the faults of others rather than at your own? If so, why?
3. Why do you think Jesus takes having a judgmental attitude so seriously? In what ways are you most tempted to have a judgmental attitude toward others?
4. What is Jesus highlighting through his illustration of the log and the speck in a person's eye?
5. What is the log in your eye that God wants to help you remove? What is the speck in your brother's or sister's eye that God wants you to gently help remove?
6. In Matthew 7:6, Jesus warns, "Don't have an undiscerning spirit." Why might it be important for believers to seek to discern where someone is spiritually before presenting the gospel to them?
7. How might Jesus' warning actually serve to help those openly hostile to the gospel to receive it one day?
8. How might God be asking you to live justly, show mercy and pray fervently for the sake of your unbelieving friends, family members or co-workers?
9. What is the one thing the Holy Spirit is asking you to do this week to obey Jesus' warnings in these verses?

PRAYER: God, thank you for your justice and mercy. Help us not have judgmental attitudes, but discerning spirits. Help us take the log of sin out of our eye, so we can help others with the speck of sin in theirs. Help us to live justly, show mercy and pray fervently for those who need you. We pray this with gratefulness for the mercy and grace we have through Jesus. Amen.