



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **The Upside Down Way to Treat People**
Series: **Upside Down Kingdom**
Text: **Matthew 7:1-12**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **March 29, 2026**

1. _____ RASH JUDGMENTS

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 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. (Mt 7:1–2).

The term “**JUDGE**” (Krino) - the **process of thinking through a situation and reaching a conclusion.**

- _____ **Discernment** (knowing good and evil)
- _____ **Settings** - in passive form it means to bring to trial, condemn, or punish; in middle voice it means to dispute
- **God’s Final** _____

*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?** (James 4:12)*

So what does Jesus mean when He says “Do not JUDGE”.

*We’ve all heard it—and many of us have probably said it: **“Don’t judge me.”***

- **“Don’t _____ Me.”**
- **“Don’t _____ Me”**
- **“Don’t _____ Me”**

Jesus is saying, **“Don’t stand over people - stand _____ them.”**

*For God **did not send his Son into the world to condemn** the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him **is not condemned**, but whoever does not believe **stands condemned already because he has not believed** in the name of God’s one and only Son. (Jn 3:17–18).*

2. _____ YOUR OWN PLANKS

*“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**? 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? (Mt 7:3–4).*

- Practical principle: when you’re committing the same sin you’re criticizing in others, **you become** _____, so you must **first correct your own behavior** before helping someone else correct theirs.
- Jesus demands **holiness in ourselves but a** _____ **toward others.** Rather than dismissing others’ failures as irrelevant, we should approach them with **compassion**, recognizing **“there but for the grace of God go I.”**

3. _____ RELATIONAL CLARITY

*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. (Mt 7:3–5).*

- **WE NEED** _____ **AWARENESS**
- _____ **AWARENESS SHAPED BY A** _____ **AWARENESS**

***Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.** 2 One man’s faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 **Who are you to judge someone else’s servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (Romans 14:1-4)*

4. _____ SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

*“**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 then turn and tear you to pieces. (Mt 7:6).*

- **Pray for wisdom** before engaging spiritually with others.
- **Assess** a person’s heart condition before sharing your deepest spiritual insights.
- **Recognize** when to step back and redirect your efforts.