

11-13-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Jesus said, WHAT? Pt-8

Purpose: Provoke people to judge righteously, be persistent in prayer and follow the Golden Rule.

Truth for Today: Christians should judge righteously, be persistent in prayer and follow the Golden Rule

Text: Matthew 7:1-12

Topic: Sermon on the Mount, Judging, Prayer, Persistent Prayer, Golden Rule

Series Title: Jesus said, WHAT?

Series purpose: Provoke people to apply the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to everyday life.

## Jesus said, WHAT? Pt-8

- I. Introduction: Vets/ FREE BOOK, read, give to a friend, order Amazon, print or electronic
  - A. Review series: Jesus Said, WHAT? It's about applying the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to everyday life. Last week Jesus caused us to ask ourselves 2 questions? (1) What drives us? Is God 1<sup>st</sup> or is it our pursuit of money and possessions, (2) Will we trust God instead of worrying about the future?
  - B. Today Jesus will talk to us about (2) Judging others, (2) Persistence in prayer and, (3) The Golden Rule.
  - C. Title: Jesus said, WHAT? Pt-8
  - D. Truth for Today: Christians should judge righteously, be persistent in prayer and follow the Golden Rule.
- II. Life application #1: God will judge us the same way we judge others.
  - A. [Matthew 7:1–6 (NLT) “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.] Most popular yet misunderstood verse in secular America
    1. Def. judge: Gk.(krinō) can mean to analyze or evaluate, to distinguish and decide; It also means to condemn or avenge. Believers are called to evaluate behavior so we can distinguish and decide whether an action or idea is right or wrong. Jesus, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul ‘judged’ and called people to repent. However, Jesus is forbidding believers from judging with self-righteous condemnation like the Pharisees.<sup>1</sup>
    2. [John 7:24 (ESV) Do not judge by appearances, but **judge with right judgment.**” 1 Corinthians 5:12 (NLT) it isn't my responsibility to judge

outsiders, but **it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning.**]

3. When we analyze ideas and behavior of people and compare it to the Bible, our attitude should be to help them, to call them to Biblical truth, not have a holier than thou, judgmental attitude. Our attitude should be a humble, loving call to follow God's ways. Jesus primary focus here is on our attitude.<sup>3</sup>
  4. Vs. 2...Jesus warned us he'd judge us in the same way we judge others. If we're going to call out a sin, we better not be doing it. If we set a standard of righteous, we better follow it or we will be judged. [Romans 2:21 (NCV) You teach others, so why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but you steal.]
- B. Vs. 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.
1. A Speck is a small piece of dust or splinter. A Log can be a tree trunk or a big stick.<sup>2</sup> A speck is insignificant while the log is a big deal. Jesus is calling out the hypocrisy of me judging your sin and overlooking or rationalizing mine. E.g., (1) I judge you for a comment about a woman while I have a secret porn addiction. (2) It can also be the comparatively insignificant wrongs others do to us with the enormous sins that we commit against God. The main point is not to have a self-righteous condemning attitude. T- "God will judge you in the same manner as you judge other people" or "God will judge you as severely as you judge others."<sup>2</sup>
- C. Vs. 6 "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.
1. The pearl is what is holy, God's Word; the pigs are the antagonistic unbelievers who reject the gospel. Jesus is talking about sharing the gospel or Biblical truth with people who don't want to hear it. If they're closed and antagonistic, abusive, and profane, don't argue, shake the dust off your feet and find someone else.
  2. Jesus is not telling his us not to preach to people hostile to the gospel. However, after continuous rejection and hostility, it's ok to move on to others. Antioch, [Acts 13:46 (NLT) Paul and Barnabas...declared, "It

was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews. But **since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles.**]

### III. Life application #2: Be persistent in prayer

A. Prayer, [Matthew 7:7 (ESV) “**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. ((NLT) “**Keep on asking**, and you will receive what you ask for. **Keep on seeking**, and you will find. **Keep on knocking**, and the door will be opened to you.) 8 **For everyone who asks, receives.** Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.]

1. Present tense in Gk. Means progressive or continuous. // knocking on door when you know someone is home. Our prayers shouldn't be 'once is enough' but persistent. P.U.S.H. 'Pray until something happens.' Why is persistence needed? Not to twist God's arm but to overcome demonic resistance, maintain faith while waiting on God's timing or to wait on see if our prayer lines up with God's will. What if God is saying no? Whatever the reason for a delay, Jesus wants us to have faith and pray, persistently, until the answer comes, or the door closes and then trust He knows best.

2. Luke 18:1–8 (NLT)...Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should **always pray and never give up.** 2 “There was a judge...“who neither feared God nor cared about people. 3 A widow of that city came to him **repeatedly**, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ 4 The judge **ignored** her for a while, but finally he said...this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because **she is wearing me out with her constant requests!**” 6 Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this **unjust judge.** 7 Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who **cry out to him day and night?** Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, **how many will he find on the earth who have faith?**”

B. [Vs. 9 “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people (TEV “*as bad as you are*”) know how to give **good gifts to your children**, how much more will **your heavenly Father** give good gifts (“*good things.*”<sup>2</sup>) to those who ask him.]

1. God is a good God; He loved us so much he adopted us in His family. One way He shows His love is by answering our prayers. // B/R cheerleading stuff.

IV. Life application #3: Treat people the way we want to be treated. The Golden Rule

A. [Matthew 7:12 (NLT) “**Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.** This is the essence of all that is taught in the **law and the prophets.**”]

1. T: “However you want people to treat you, that’s how you should treat them” or “The things you want people to do to you, do those things first to other people.” E.g., Sky blasting circling ducks Millwood, trying to turn into Chick Filet on Richmond, laughing at people when they make mistakes, etc.
2. If put into practice as a core value, this one command could replace most of our employee handbooks, laws, and codes of conduct. If parents taught their kids family life would be better; if schools taught their students...if businesses taught their employees...if leaders acted this way...

B. This isn’t intended to be a way to get what you want, e.g., I’ll let you hunt in my turkey spot with no turkeys so you’ll let me hunt in yours with lots of turkeys. Rather it’s a Christian attitude motivated by love and care for others.<sup>4</sup> Followers of Jesus are to be active in doing good to others.

C. Living the Christian life can be simplified by 3 great commands: (1) Love God with all your heart, (2) Love your neighbor as yourself, and (3) Treat people the way you’d like to be treated.

V. Conclusion

A. Summary Jesus taught us: (1) Christians should judge righteously, (2) Be persistent in prayer and (3) Follow the Golden Rule.

B. Prayer/ Souls

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 33). Victor Books.
2. Newman, B. M., & Stine, P. C. (1992). [A handbook on the Gospel of Matthew](#) (p. 195). United Bible Societies.

3. Blomberg, C. (1992). [\*Matthew\*](#) (Vol. 22, p. 129). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
4. Morris, L. (1992). [\*The Gospel according to Matthew\*](#) (p. 172). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

## VII. Supplemental material

- A. II Importance of context. A final illustration of Pharisaic practices pertains to judging. The Pharisees were then judging Christ and finding Him to be inadequate. He was not offering the kind of kingdom they anticipated or asking for the kind of righteousness they were exhibiting. So they rejected Him. Jesus therefore warned them against hypocritical judging.<sup>1</sup>
- B. II Some use a word that means to examine the facts about someone and make a decision, very much as a judge might make a decision. More often, however, translators have felt the context indicates here that the idea is more “declare guilty” or “condemn<sup>2</sup> God is the ultimate judge.
- C. II “Do not judge others if you do not wish to be judged by God.”<sup>2</sup> Failure to make “God” explicit in the second part almost invariably leads people to believe the verse is saying “Don’t judge other people so they won’t judge you.” For this reason it is advisable to say “so God won’t judge you,” as in TEV and other dynamic translations, or “so God won’t condemn you.”<sup>2</sup>
- D. III *How much more* introduces an argument “from the lesser to the greater”<sup>2</sup>
- E. IV A This was not a new idea to the Jews. The Jewish Rabbi Hillel gave the “Silver Rule” in its negative form: “Do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you; that is the entire Law, and all else is interpretation.”<sup>2</sup> Jesus put a positive twist on it.