

Main Idea: Jesus never condemns discernment; He condemns hypocritical judgment.

High Def

Remember when you got a glimpse of your favorite show in high def for the first time? I can vividly remember my first high-def TV. The crowd in the stands of the football game were as clear as the players on the field. Incredible!

Seeing clearly is important to us. We demand it when it comes to our high-definition televisions. Additionally, we believe we see others clearly. We know their faults. We have seen them stumble. Have you ever noticed that other people’s flaws are always in high-definition while ours aren’t nearly as clear? It’s like our eyes come pre-loaded with a spiritual zoom lens for everyone else and a smudged selfie camera for ourselves.

The Sermon on the Mount

Our text today is a small part of the Sermon on the Mount. This was Christ’s first public sermon. It is recorded in Matthew 5-7. It is important as you read or study it that you remember His primary audience was the Pharisees.

The Pharisees were the professional religious supermen of the day. They were paid to be good. And they believed they were good. They believed they created their own righteousness. Matthew 7:1-5 is aimed squarely at the Pharisees. They were the self-appointed judges in the community.

4 Take-a-Ways

- ❑ Application: If I enjoy diagnosing your heart more than examining mine, I’m not promoting truth, I’m promoting self.
- ❑ Application: What if God judged me the way I judge others?
- ❑ Application: Honest self-inventory must precede helpful guidance.
- ❑ Application: Move toward the person in sequence to “help,” not to “win.”

The Psychology of Grace

Believe it or not there is strongly documented, empirical psychological data building the case for Matthew 7. Jesus uses a ridiculous example to emphasize the ridiculous practice of hypocrisy in judgment. Modern psychology agrees wholeheartedly.

- ❑ Grace is linked to lower anxiety and depression and better overall mental health.
- ❑ Grace can buffer the impact of stress.
- ❑ Grace correlates with reduced anger and increased hope and self-esteem.

Close

The church that never says “brother, that’s wrong” is as unloving as the church that only says it. Make sure your heart is in the right place and that you have taken the inward look first before you point out someone else’s problem.

Family Night Big idea – Read Matthew 7:1-5

- Elementary School – Ask, “What will happen if we judge others? When we judge others, how does God judge us (v.2)? When we judge others what is sticking out of our eye? What should we do before trying to help others?
- Middle/ High School – Ask, “What do we get out of judging others? What is Jesus trying to teach us in this passage? Does that mean there is never a place for judgment? When is it proper to judge someone or something?

Prayer: “Heavenly Father, we want to be discerning not judgmental. Please help us know the difference. Amen.”

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, October 29th.

Gravity: NOT TODAY

Today’s Songs

Goodbye Yesterday.....Elevation Rhythm

The Lord’s Prayer.....Matt Maher

Baby Bottle Boomerang for Choices of the Heart

Fill bottle with change and bring back to the church. All bottles are due by November 2nd. Thank you for your generosity!

Boo Bash

Our annual Fall Celebration is THIS AFTERNOON. We will have Trunk or Treat, Costume Contest, Pancake Supper, Cake Walk, Games, Petting Zoo and more! If you signed up for Trunk or Treat you will need to have your trunk ready to go at 4:15. The Costume Contest is a little different this year. All costumes will be judged as you walk through Trunk or Treat. If you want to be in the costume contest, be sure to get a number at the starting gate of Trunk or Treat. Scary costumes will not win any prizes. The fun starts at 4:30. Come and bring a friend! This is an excellent opportunity to invite a family to church, have fun with your own family and meet someone new!