



"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

— MATTHEW 7:1-2

MATTHEW 7:1-6

JUDGE NOT: SELF-EXAMINATION, MERCY & DISCERNMENT

Jesus calls His followers to resist a critical, self-righteous spirit, examine their own hearts first, extend mercy and grace to others, and still exercise biblical discernment.

CENTRAL THEME

Resist a critical, self-righteous spirit. Examine our own hearts first. Extend mercy and grace. Exercise biblical discernment.

KEY PRINCIPLE

Examine yourself before examining others. Love without compromising truth. Discern without assuming motives.



I. JUDGE NOT — MATTHEW 7:1-2

- Jesus turns the attention away from the faults of others and places the lens directly upon us.
- The natural tendency of the flesh is to make life revolve around ourselves—our opinions, expectations, preferences, and perceptions. Jesus challenges that tendency.

THE WARNING

- ➔ Be careful how you evaluate others.
- ➔ The measure we use toward others becomes the measure by which we ourselves are measured.

THIS SHOULD CAUSE EVERY BELIEVER TO ASK:

- ✓ Am I quick to assume the worst or the best?
- ✓ Am I impatient with people?
- ✓ Do I form conclusions without knowing the whole story?
- ✓ Do I hold others to standards I do not consistently apply to myself?
- ✓ Am I extending the same mercy I want God and others to extend toward me?



Jesus' words are not merely suggestions. They are commands for Christian living.

II. WHAT DOES "JUDGE" MEAN?

The Greek word translated "judge" is *krinō*. It can carry the idea of:

- distinguishing
- deciding
- determining
- evaluating
- forming a conclusion
- calling something into question
- and, depending upon context, judging or condemning.

The teaching reaches deeper than merely saying, "Don't condemn someone."

Jesus challenges the process by which we begin forming conclusions about another person.

GUARD THE BEGINNING OF THE THOUGHT



Judgment often begins long before words are spoken.

It begins when a thought becomes an assumption.

—An assumption becomes an opinion.

—An opinion becomes a conclusion.

—And eventually we may begin treating someone according to the label we have privately placed upon them.

Take the thought captive before it becomes a verdict.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

IX. HOLD YOURSELF TO THE STANDARD FIRST



Am I more concerned about another person's speck than my own plank?

"Lord, search me first." — PSALM 139:23-24

Before correcting another—allow God to correct you.



X. FRUIT INSPECTION IS NOT THE SAME AS ASSUMING MOTIVES

JUDGMENT NOT — Observe fruit. (Matt. 7:15-16)

JUDGMENT IS — Assume motives you cannot truly know.



EXTREME #2
Harsh Judgment
Critical, condemning,
self-righteous.

THE BIBLICAL BALANCE

LOVE PEOPLE DEEPLY
while
DISCERNING BIBLICALLY
and
LEAVING HEART JUDGMENT TO GOD.

III. SEE PEOPLE THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS



When Jesus encountered broken and sinful people, He did not merely see what they had been. He saw what His grace could make them.



Our first response should not be: "What is wrong with them?"
A more Christlike response is: "How can I come alongside them?" "How can I serve them?" "How can I help bear their burden?"



We do not elevate ourselves above struggling people. We humble ourselves and come alongside them.

A POWERFUL MINISTRY PRINCIPLE

Bring out the best in people rather than continually condemning the worst in them. We never know the full story of what God is doing in another person's life.



Paul writes: "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself... He who judges me is the Lord."

God alone sees perfectly:

- ✓ every fact
- ✓ every motive
- ✓ every thought
- ✓ every wound
- ✓ every circumstance
- ✓ every work of grace

Therefore, we ultimately entrust judgment to the Lord.

IV. GOD ALONE JUDGES PERFECTLY — 1 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4



Jesus said: "As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

OUR JUDGMENT CAN BE INFLUENCED BY:

- personal preferences
- past experiences
- pride
- hurt
- insecurity
- incomplete information
- assumptions
- emotions
- self-interest

JESUS HAD NONE OF THOSE SINFUL DISTORTIONS.

His judgment is perfectly righteous.

THE QUESTION WE MUST ASK:

Is my thinking aligned with God's Word—or merely with my own opinion?

XII. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE OF HEALING



The church should be a spiritual hospital. People are wounded, broken, immature, recovering, and being sanctified. Sanctification is a process. Do not judge someone only by where they are.

VI. JUDGING OTHERS CAN EXPOSE OUR OWN HEART — ROMANS 2:1-3



Paul warns that when we judge others while practicing sin ourselves, we condemn ourselves. The person who continually examines everyone else while ignoring his own heart is spiritually dangerous.

Instead of constantly asking: "What is wrong with them?"



Ask: "Lord, what needs to change in me?"

PERSONAL EXAMINATION: Before evaluating another person—check your heart, motives, attitude, and life against Scripture.

VII. THE MEASURE YOU USE WILL BE MEASURED BACK — MATTHEW 7:2



"With the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." What kind of measure are we using?



MERCY



GRACE



PATIENCE



COMPASSION



FORGIVENESS

You do not know everything that brought someone to where they are today. Do not write someone off whom Jesus is still pursuing. The Shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to seek the one. Sometimes we are that one.



VIII. THE SPECK AND THE PLANK — MATTHEW 7:3-5



"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"

- We see one weakness. → Thought → Opinion → Label → Misunderstanding.
- We may be completely missing what God is doing inside them.

➔ JESUS' ORDER IS CLEAR:

- 1 **FIRST:** Remove the plank from your own eye.
- 2 **THEN:** You will see clearly to help your brother.

THIS LEADS TO:

- ✓ Self-examination
- ✓ Humility
- ✓ Clear spiritual vision
- ✓ Loving restoration

XIII. WALK WORTHY — EPHESIANS 4:1-6



- Lowliness
- Gentleness
- Longsuffering
- Bearing with one another in love
- Maintaining unity
- Pursuing peace

We are one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

XIV. MATTHEW 7:6 — DISCERNMENT STILL MATTERS

"Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine..."

Love does not require blindness.

Grace does not require abandoning truth.

Mercy does not mean approving everything.



Look inward before looking outward. Choose mercy. Choose humility. Choose investment. Choose discernment. Choose truth in love.

Before pointing out the speck—deal with the plank.

XVI. DO NOT CAST YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Not everyone will value or receive spiritual truth. Depend on the Holy Spirit for discernment about when, how, and when not to speak.

XVII. TEACHABILITY MATTERS — PROVERBS 9:8-9



The wise receive instruction and grow wiser. A teachable heart is willing to be examined by the Word of God.



XVIII. KNOW WHEN TO MOVE ON — ACTS 19:9

Paul withdrew from those who rejected the message, yet continued teaching those willing to hear. Use discernment.



XIX. RELATIONSHIPS REQUIRE INVESTMENT

Come alongside people. Listen. Pray. Encourage. Speak truth lovingly. Point them toward Jesus.



XX. BRING EVERYTHING BACK TO SCRIPTURE

Our opinions are not the final authority. God's Word is.