

EXCESS BAGGAGE

Who Made You Judge? Matthew 7:1-5

Don't Judge

Matthew 7:1-5 (KJV) Judge not, that ye be not judged. [2] For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

- Jesus said, Judge not, that ye be not judged
- People frequently apply this text as if it were a command against *any form* of moral judgment
- The text does not mean we can't take a stand on doctrinal or moral issues
- The text does not mean we can't be a critical thinker
- The word "judge" means to *evaluate or analyze*
- What Jesus is referring to here is the judgmental, critical, condemning attitude we sometimes have toward other people
- One of the easiest things to do is criticize the faults and failures of other people
- Jesus is dealing with the Pharisees, a group of religious people, who knew the Law backwards and forwards
- Why are we so quick and so skilled at judging and criticizing others?
- There are several reasons why people tend to judge and criticize:
 - Judging and criticizing boosts our own self-image.
 - Judging and criticizing is simply enjoyed.
 - Judging and criticizing makes us feel that our own lives (morality and behavior) are better than the person who failed.
 - Judging and criticizing helps us justify the decisions we have made and the things we have done throughout our lives.
 - Judging and criticizing points out to our friends what "strong Christians" we are.
 - Judging and criticizing causes us to have "spiritual amnesia" when it comes to our own sins
 - Judging and criticizing is an outlet for hurt and revenge.
- Jesus doesn't want us to be "judges and critics" because:
 - Most criticism arises out of impure motives
 - Critics set their "own standards" to judge others by
 - Critics focus the attention on others instead of themselves
 - Critics make their judgment based on limited knowledge
 - Critics often base their judgments on a distorted view of the facts
 - Critics have double standards, one set for you and a different set, *more lenient* set of rules for themselves
 - Criticism is wrong because it usurps God's authority and invites God's judgment on the critic
 - The critic will be judged for the very same thing they criticize
- Jesus said, Whatever measure or method we use in judging others, it will be used to measure how we are judged.
- We must we take a serious look at ourselves before you rush to criticize others

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- Many times, the issues we judge in others are the **same ones** we *refuse* to judge and deal with in ourselves
- We should only judge someone else's behavior when we are mindful of the fact what *we are ourselves will be judged*, and we should consider how we would want to be judged

Examine Yourself

[3] And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? [4] Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? [5] Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

- Jesus makes His point giving an illustration
- Jesus asks the question, "Why are you beholding the mote in your brother's eye, and have not considered the beam in your own eye?"
- Jesus is asking the question how we can see the sins of others and not be aware, notice or even feel convicted of the sins in our own lives.
- Jesus uses the eye because the eye one of the sensitive parts of the body
- Jesus speaks of two things in His question: a mote and a beam
- A mote:
 - Is a speck, a tiny particle on the surface of the eye, virtually undetectable
- A beam:
 - Is not a speck, it noticeable to everyone, it can't be hidden
- That's why Jesus is asking the question "How can we keep looking at others relatively minor issues and miss, overlook, and ignore our own major problems?"
- How can we be of any help to others if we are blind ourselves?
- We pay more attention to the "minor issues" in the lives of others than the *major spiritual issues* in our own lives
- Our own pride blinds us to the reality about ourselves
- If we do see a problem, we quickly "rationalize and spiritualize" it away
- We are more patient, understanding and merciful of our beams (logs) in our eyes than we are with the motes (specks) in the eyes (lives) of others
- It's interesting that the mote and the beam are made from the exact same material, the only difference is size
- That's probably why we can spot sins in other people so easily because they are really our sins
- Jesus calls this hypocritical because there is a double standard
- We are *very rigid and unyielding* with the faults of others and *very tolerant* of ourselves when we commit the same sin

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You Can Only Help Others, After You've Helped Yourself

5] Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

- What does Jesus want us to do?
- Recognize our attitude and behavior is *hypocritical*
- Deal with your own life's issues, problems, and sins *first*
- When you examine your own life, you will discover that you are in no position to criticize
- When you deal with the issues in your life you make some interesting discoveries:
 - Your life needs work and you're in position to criticize
 - Dealing with your own sins is painful
 - Removing the beam is acknowledging you judged others unfairly and repenting of your actions
- *You discover humility*
 - Dealing with the beam in your life humbles you
 - You put yourself and others in the proper perspective
- *You discover understanding*
 - When you remove the beams from your life you will know the pain your brother or sister is experiencing as you help them get the mote out their life
 - You won't just focus on dealing with your own issues, you realize now what they may be going through, and see an opportunity to help them through their issues you have a greater sensitivity of what they are dealing with
- *You discover faith to help others*
 - As God enables you to remove the beams from your life, your confidence to help your brother or sister is increased
 - You believe that God has done for you He can do for them
 - You will become an *encourager* and not a "critic"