

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JUDGING OTHERS

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.

- This passage of scripture is from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7 where Jesus teaches on all areas of a believer's life
- Jesus said, *Judge not, that ye be not judged*
- This is probably one of the most misunderstood and misapplied texts in all of the Bible
- Jesus is not saying:
 - Don't think critically
 - Don't correct error
 - Don't address sin
 - Don't exercise spiritual discipline
- The text does not mean we can't take a stand on doctrinal or moral issues
- 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 speaking to the Pharisees, a group of religious people, who knew the word "backwards and forwards"
- They even added additional laws to the scriptures to appear "more holy" than others
- They were the first to criticize you for missing some minor point, yet at the same time they doing things *much worse* than you and no action will be taken against them
- Why are we so quick and so skilled at criticizing others?
- There are several reasons why people tend to judge and criticize:
 - Criticism boosts our own self-image.
 - Criticism is simply enjoyed.
 - Criticism helps us justify the decisions we have made and the things we have done throughout our lives.
 - Criticism distracts us from our own sin
 - Criticism false sense of righteousness or even *amnesia* when it comes to their own sins
- Jesus says this kind judgment is dangerous because:
 - Critics "human standards" to judge others by
 - Critics make their judgments based on *limited knowledge*:
 - We criticize the new believer for falling into the devil's trap, not considering they are young in the Lord, the circumstances, etc.
 - We criticize the church for not having program or that program, although we have not responded to any call for ministry volunteers
 - We ignore our own spiritual condition

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- Critics are hypocrites, they have double standards
 - It assumes God's role
 - Being judgmental is wrong because it usurps God's authority and invites God's judgment on the critic
- **Jesus doesn't stop with a warning, He explains why being judgmental is so dangerous**
- Jesus said, Whatever measure or method we use in judging others, it will be used to measure how we are judged.
- Critical/judgmental people will reap what they sow ***Galatians 6:7 NKJV Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.***
- The way we treat others is the way others and God will deal with us
- Jesus goes deeper, He exposes the root problem behind judging others

The Problem: Hypocrisy Blinds Our Spiritual Vision

[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?

- Jesus makes His point by giving us an illustration
- Jesus uses the eye because the eye one of the sensitive parts of the body
 - 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 the issues in our own lives.
- 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
 - Causes irritation that needs to be addressed
 - Is on the *surface* of the eye and is easily removed
- *A beam*:
 - Is a log, a plank, a telephone pole in comparison to the mote
 - Is a serious spiritual issue that needs immediate attention
- That's why Jesus is asking the question "How can we keep looking at others relatively *minor issues* and miss, overlook, and ignore our *major problems*?"
- We often focus on the imperfections of others and are *blind* to our own issues
- 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
- We can identify and see the sins of others and not see the sins in our own lives
- We see the sins of others and excuse or rationalize our own
- We quickly rationalize and "spiritualize" our sins
- We minimize our own failures and maximize theirs

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- We are more patient, understanding and merciful of our “beams” than we are with the *motes* (specks) in the lives of others
- Jesus calls this hypocritical because there is a *double standard*
- What we fail to realize is that *the mote and the beam* are made from the exact *same material*, the only difference is size
- Jesus does not tell us to “ignore the struggles” of others, He tells us how to *help them correctly*

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 that our judgmental attitude and behavior is hypocritical
- Deal with your own life’s issues, problems and sins *first*
- Removing the beams in our own lives is *painful, humbling, and necessary*
- When you examine your own life, you will discover that:
 - You have a *beam* in your own life that’s blinding your spiritual vision
 - You are in no position to criticize
- There are beams that need to be cast out ***before*** you can help other people
- When you effectively remove the beam from your eyes, you are now in a position to help others because you have developed what it takes to help
- What Happens When We Remove Our Beam?
 - *Humility is developed*
 - Dealing with the beam in your life humbles you
 - Humility is what Paul called for to be able to help others ***Galatians 6:1 (KJV) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.***
 - *Understanding is developed*
 - 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
 - The Bible tells to weep with those that weep, meaning we have a level of compassion and understanding with what they are going through
 - *Faith is developed*
 - As God enables you to remove the beams from your life, your confidence to help your brother or sister is increased
 - *Spiritual Clarity is developed*
 - Jesus says, “...*then thou shall see clearly...*”
 - Sharpens our spiritual discernment
 - Aligns our perspective with God’s truth

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- Jesus is not saying we shouldn't help someone with "a mote/speck" in their eye
- What Jesus is saying is that we deal the *huge beam* in our own eye *first*
 - In Psalm 51:10 David prayed, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew the right spirit within me...*"
 - In vs. 13 David said, "**Then** I'll teach transgressors your ways...."
 - David was saying, God deals with us **before** He works through us

Lesson Summary

- We can help others when we *first* examine and deal with ourselves
- To help others, we must first realize we *need* help with our own issues
- Ask God to show you the beams, the obstructions, the *blind spots* issues in your life
- Ask God to give you the courage to go through the process of removing those things that are impairing your walk with God
- God isn't asking you to find *someone else's* mote/speck in their lives
 - **He's asking you to let Him show you the beam in *your* life**