

“Judge Not – Part I”

Matthew 7 v1-5

Scripture Ref: Rom 16:17; Acts 17:11; John 7:24; Matt 6:20; 1 Cor 11:31; John 3:16-17; 1 Peter 4:5; Ps 7:11; Ps 9:8; Rom 2:1; Gal 6:7; Ps 51:10, 13; Gal 6:1; James 5:19-20

- 1. It’s a great thing to live in America – Land of the Free!**
 - a. As a culture, we are pretty tolerant. Whatever you want to do, go for it, it’s a free country!**
 - b. We are now a “tolerant” nation now!**
- 2. But our societies quest for “tolerance” has led to the inevitable social axiom that states that there no “right”, no “truth”**
 - a. What is right for you does not have to be right for me.**
 - b. What is true for you does not have to be true for me.**
 - c. Our country has moved into a postmodernism live-and-let-live concept of truth, which holds that two opposite and wholly contradictory positions can both be true.**
- 3. We have reached a point where if you disagree with the prevailing culture, you are labeled as being “intolerant” and a “hate-monger”**
 - a. You are judgmental. Why even your bible tells you not to judge!**
 - b. Of course, if you do happen to disagree with the prevailing culture**
 - c. You will become the target of – guess what – judgment!**
 - d. Some of the most vile and hate-filled attacks emanate from those who are the loudest proponents of tolerance and acceptance!**
- 4. If you are deviant, gender-changed, abortion supporting, homosexual who adheres in Marxist ideas: You have a place in the American society! We want to hear your opinion! Would you join the school board? Why you should write a book!**
 - a. And if anyone so much as voices disagreement with any of your “lifestyle choices”, they are (fill in the blank) phobic and guilty of hate speech!”**
- 5. But if you are a bible believing, God-fearing Christian,**
 - a. You have no place at the table of American politics, or in our schools, stay in your churches!**
 - b. And if anyone attacks you, you deserve it!**
 - c. Your bible says “don’t judge”, so get out of my face!**

Judging Jesus way!

- 6. So today we will look at Jesus teaching on judgment – what He has to say on the matter**

7. Three part series on Judgment:

- a. **Judging ourselves**
- b. **Judging others**
- c. **God's judgment**

7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

Should we Judge at all?

8. Does the bible really teach that we are not to judge, at all? Would you be surprised if I said "No!?"

- a. **Actually, the bible calls for the Christian to judge in many ways...I would call it "applying discernment":**
- b. **We are to discern if someone is causing division in the fellowship:**

***Rom 16:17** Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

- c. **We are to judge things we hear against the word of God**

***Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

- d. **Conduct during worship and communion:**

***1 Cor 11:13** Judge among yourselves...*

- e. **Jesus notes that we are to judge not an outward appearances, but with righteous judgment**

***John 7:24** Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."*

- f. **Jesus will tell us that we should judge the fruit of a ministry of person:**

***Matt 6:20** Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

- g. **Lastly, Paul tells us that if we would judge ourselves, then would would not need to be corrected**

***1 Cor 11:31** For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.*

Judging Ourselves – Not others

7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

9. This must be the most memorized verse in the bible, I mean even people who don't believe the bible and never read it can quote this verse!
 - a. Usually it will be pulled out at the slightest hint of disapproval – "don't judge me bro – the bible says 'judge not!'"
 - b. What does Jesus mean by this?
10. "Judge" – The Greek word here is "krino" – which means to "pass judgment, to sentence, to condemn."
 - a. An example would be at the end of a trial, the judge makes a ruling "you are guilty, and here is your sentence"
 - b. How does that look? A few examples:
11. We can condemn someone in our own mind
 - a. People will do wrong things – good people will do bad things
 - b. We can disagree with what they did, we can even state "I believe that to be wrong"
 - c. But there is a place that we can go in condemnation in our heart, a righteous indignation that they are bad, and that they deserve judgment, and "They'll get theirs".
 - d. Thing is, God does not see humanity in this light – remember John 3:16-17:

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

F. B. Meyer, once said that when we see a brother or sister in sin, there are two things we do not know: First, we do not know how hard he or she tried not to sin. And second, we do not know the power of the forces that assailed him or her. We also do not know what we would have done in the same circumstances.

12. We can judge another persons motives
 - a. One person can do something good with the wrong motives
 - b. Another person can do something bad with the right motives
 - c. Fact is – we cannot see into another persons heart to judge their motives – that is the sole domain of God – only God can search the heart
 - d. The judging of another's motives is the starting point of many divisions and broken relationships

Why Not Judge others?

13. Judgment is reserved for God alone

1 Peter 4:5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

- a. **And it's a good thing because God is a "just judge"**

Ps 7:11 God is a just judge,

Ps 9:8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

14. We, on the other hand, don't always judge righteously..

Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, whoever you are, when you judge another; for in passing judgment upon him you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things.
RSV

- a. **In other words, we'll judge someone else for some wrong thing they do, but we'll excuse ourselves!**
- b. **That's why Jesus is warning us not to be quick to judge, because it'll come back to you!**

Judging Ourselves – We'll receive grace

2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

15. See, my sin has been dealt with on the cross – Jesus paid the price for my sin

- a. **So who will judge me? People will.**
- b. **So is this like, "karma?" NO!**
- c. **But it is "whatever a man sows, he will reap" (Gal 6:7)**

16. If I am always pointing out the dirt on others, and condemning them in my heart, then the same judgment will be pointed at me.

- a. **As soon as the people I have judged see a flaw in my life, TARGET! They will hit me with it! And guess what, I had it coming!**
- b. **That's why offering grace is such an awesome thing in the family of God. I find that when I extend grace to others, they when I need grace, it comes back!**

- c. So be careful how you judge others, because the fact is, none of us lives perfect lives 100% of the time, and there will come a time when you will need grace!

17. There is also a flip-side to that truth

- a. In 1 Tim Paul calls on bishops and deacons to be “blameless”,
- b. That did not mean they were to be perfect, but that they lived their lives in such a way where no one could make an accusation against them.
 - i. Paul even gave a list: not a womanizer, sober, hospitable, not greedy or divisive, having a good reputation outside the church.
- c. Why? Because when you are blameless you have credibility to be able to speak truth and righteousness to others.
- d. Having that type of walk allows you to be a tool that God uses in someone’s life.

18. But first – we have to look at the beam in our own eye...

Judging Ourselves – We can see clearly

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

19. Jesus is not saying that we can't help a brother get a speck out of his eye,

- a. He is saying that we need first to take care of our own “stick in the eye” problem first

20. See, with that big beam sticking out of your eye, you can't see clearly to help your brother with his speck

- a. IOW – when we have unrepentant sin in our own lives, we cannot see clearly to give wise and Godly counsel to someone else.
- b. Imagine you had an accident at work, a splinter lodged in your eye (ow!), and you went to the hospital to have it surgically removed
- c. The Optometric Surgeon comes in, and he has those funny glasses with big eyeballs painted on the front
- d. ... “Don’t worry about these, I can see pretty good around the edges... it’ll be just fine!”

21. Now - notice the material: One is a speck or splinter, the other a plank – both wood.

- a. IOW we usually notice our own sin in other people, because we are familiar with it!
- b. Whatever sins you struggle with personally are the sins you will point out and judge in others!

- c. It's been said you can tell a persons greatest area of sin, it's usually the thing they judge most about others!
- d. Jesus is telling us "when you have victory in your own life with that sin, THEN you can help your brother."

Ps 51:10-13

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ...13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Judging Ourselves – We can restore another

5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

22. There are two things that stand out to me in this illustration: Seeing clearly and removing a speck

- a. **Seeing Clearly:** In order to help my brother, I need to see clearly.
 - i. **Removing something from someone's eye is delicate work, and I need to be able to see clear to do it.**
 - ii. **If my vision is cloudy and my hand unsteady, I have no business getting involved in someone's life on this level.**
 - iii. **When someone needs your help spiritually, its not like brushing a bug off their head.**
 - iv. **Many people have been hurt and led astray by being "spiritually operated on" by other Christians who cant see clearly.**
- b. **Removing a speck:** Its delicate work, and it should be done with care and a gently hand.
 - i. **There is no place for "preaching" or "I told you so" or "you should have known better".**

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,

23. But if we are properly prepared, your service to your brother or sister:

James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

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