

**“Judge Not Part II - Judging Others”**

**Matthew 7 v6-23**

**Scripture Ref: Matt 10:13-14; Col 4:3; Jas 1:5; Gal 5:22**

- 1. Three part series on Judgment:**
  - a. Judging ourselves**
  - b. Judging others**
  - c. God’s judgment**
  - d. ...today we’ll see that there is a place for judgment when it comes to others – oh yea!**
- 2. We can judge others, but perhaps not in the way that you think!**
  - a. We tend to judge others in ways like...**
    - i. Condemning**
    - ii. Comparing**
    - iii. Complaining**
- 3. But in reality judging is not for these reasons...**

***Judging Others – Discerning the Recipient***

6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

- 4. Last week we looked at how we need to take care of our own “stick in the eye” problem before we can help another.**
  - a. But the sad fact is that not everyone wants to be helped, not everyone is interested in hearing the truth**
  - b. Jesus says some people are “dogs”, some people are “hogs” – Later on he calls some “wolves in sheep’s clothing**
  - c. Jesus is not being very politically correct, He must have missed the sensitivity training class!**
  - d. Why all the name-calling? He is making the point that we need to use “judgment” and be discerning as to who we seek to minister to.**
- 5. When Jesus gave the great commission, He basically entrusted the Christian community to handle a very valuable and holy thing – the gospel message!**
  - a. There are all kinds of messages in this world – some are important, such as messages from the president to his generals**
  - b. Others are less important – such as “things go better with Coke!” *(think of the millions of dollars that are spent to tell you to drink soda – and most of it isn’t even good for you!)***
  - c. But here’s the thing: The message of the gospel isn’t just a good idea, or something people should consider...**

- d. **It is the single most important message that a person might hear in his or her entire life.**
- 6. **And it's not only an important message, but it is a holy message that has been entrusted to you and I, and we should exercise discernment in how we handle it**
  - a. **When Jesus sent out the disciples He warned them:**

***Matt 10:13-14***

*13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.*

*16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

- 7. **Not everyone will be open to the gospel; and Jesus did not force His message on anyone...**
  - a. **But He did minister with good judgment, using different approaches with different people**
    - i. **To Nicodemas, He spoke of the new birth**
    - ii. **To the Samaritan woman, He spoke of living water**
    - iii. **When the religious leaders tried to trap Him, He didn't even answer them.**
  - b. **Jesus judged His audience, and He tailored His message accordingly - and so should we!**
  - c. **If we don't use good judgment in our witnessing, we may get trampled!**

***Judging Others – The Open Door***

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

- 8. **This section of scripture is used often to direct us to seek the Lord for the things we need.**
  - a. **And indeed it is a Kingdom Principle that is applicable to many areas of our lives**
  - b. **What are the two things we need to effectively minister? An open door, and Holy Spirit discernment**
  - c. **Here the metaphor Jesus uses seems to indicate opening a door, reminding me of Paul's request for prayer from the Colossians**

***Col 4:3*** *meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ*

***Judging Others – The Source of Discernment***

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**James 1:5** *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

- 9. Think about it like this: If the gospel message is such an important message, wouldn't we need supernatural wisdom to be able to minister it effectively?**
- a. I think of cutting a diamond, you wouldn't take a raw diamond and set it on the concrete, get a hammer, and start banging away... !
  - b. It takes years of training to learn the techniques and the proper tools to be able to get the result you want – otherwise you ruin a very valuable stone
  - c. Well it doesn't take years of training to share the gospel, but it does take wisdom from the Lord and the leading of the Holy Spirit to be effective!
- 10. But why does God tell us to “keep asking, keep knocking?”**
- a. God is not only interested in the results (if He were, He might use angels!)
  - b. But He is interested in growing us and developing our relationship to Him along the way!
- 11. ILLUSTRATION:** The other day I let my son help me put together a computer
- a. I could have pointed him to a video of how to build a computer, and he could have waledk through the process
  - b. But when you take the time to sit down and teach on of your kids, something happens in addition to building a PC – you also build a relationship!
- 12. It's the same in ministry – we can make videos and tracts, and those can be effective...**
- a. But if you spend time with another person and share with them what God has done in your life, you are building a relationship.
  - b. If we blanketed the town with 10,000 tracts, someone might find one, and may get saved
  - c. But who will disciple that person? Who will pray with them, pray for them?

### ***Judging Others – The Strategy***

12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

13. This is the “golden rule” – but it is not the “plan of salvation!”
- a. Some people will tell you they are going to heaven because they “follow the golden rule”
  - b. Unfortunately that is not a biblical position!
  - c. But what this is – is a guiding principle for the Christian to follow!
14. In Jesus day most people had been taught by the rabbi’s – “you should *not* do to your neighbor what you would *not* want him to do to you”
- a. In other words – don’t do anything bad to your neighbor, he might return the favor!
  - b. It’s a fine proverb, but it is a “static law”, sort of like “don’t break any laws and the police will leave you alone”
  - c. But you can not break any laws and still be a terrible person!
  - d. Jesus is bringing it into the dynamic realm – “*DO to others what you want them to DO to you!*”
15. This goes back again to Gal 6:7 “*whatever you sow, that’s what you will reap*”
- a. My friend Pastor Larry Upchurch used to always say “*you want friends? Be a friend! You want people to bless you? Be a blessing!*”
  - b. And notice that Jesus didn’t say “wait for them to do something nice, then reciprocate!”
  - c. This is a “do it first” command, take the first step, in the same way that Jesus initiated His offer of salvation to mankind
16. But.... WHY???
- a. There is not a better way to open the door to share into someones life than to be a blessing – to do something for them.
  - b. A person in your neighborhood is not going to just open up to you for no reason...
  - c. But if you go over and bless them – fix their car, cut down a tree, suddenly there is a connection.

### ***Judging Others – You’re in the Minority***

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- 17. I tell my kids all the time (really, just ask them!) that the path of this world is wide ... it's like the Sin Superhighway, and its full of people!**
- a. If you are looking for someone to be evil with, there is no shortage of companions!**
  - b. But (you know I am going to say it!), just because everyone does something, that doesn't make it right.**
  - c. How often do we hear that : "everyone's doing it!" and how often do we say "if everyone jumped off of a cliff, would you?" (groan!)**
- 18. While that might be the second most frequent discourse between teenager and parent, right behind "I need money"...**
- a. This is truly a Kingdom principle that is applicable to our lives -**
  - b. Even from a secular standpoint, the road to mediocrity is wide and full of people – most people do just enough to get by, and never reach their full potential**
    - i. Very few people will pay the price that it takes to be successful in business, or music, or sports.**
  - c. When it comes to spiritual matters, few people are willing to fully surrender their lives to God**
    - i. (I'm not talking about saying "I'm a Christian", I'm talking about taking up your cross and following Jesus!)**
    - ii. (going against the grain of the rest of the world, your friends, the people you work with, the people you sin with)**
    - iii. Most people are far more concerned with their life here on earth, having fun, making money**
- 19. Does that disappoint you, to know that you are in the minority?**
- a. It shouldn't. God's people have always been in the minority in this world.**
  - b. And it's not difficult to understand why: The path is narrow, the way difficult**
  - c. So don't be discouraged if only a minority are open to your message.**
  - d. And beware of wolves!**

### ***Judging the False Prophets***

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

**20. In this last area of judging, Jesus shifts to judging those who are in the church.**

- a. “Look out, there will be people that will hang out in the church, and they’ll pass themselves off as sheep, but they are really hungry wolves!**
- b. And guess what, you need good judgment to discern who they are!**
- c. Thing is, we know we can’t judge their motives, how do we judge?**
- d. We can be fruit inspectors**

**21. When I go to buy fruit, I inspect it before I take it home... it should meet certain criteria:**

- a. Look plump and juicy, have nice color, no worms, fruity aroma!**

**22. We can examine a person or a ministry in the same way.**

- a. Does the person walk what they talk? Do they obey God?**
- b. Does the teaching line up with God’s word?**
- c. Is there “God fruit” from the ministry – people saved, lives changed, bondages broken?**
- d. Do they display the fruit of the Spirit?**

*Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

**23. SUMMARY:**

- a. We are called to share God’s message of love and life to this world**
- b. We need God’s discernment to know WHO to share with and HOW to share**
- c. We need God to open doors for us**

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