

## Judging Mt. 7:1-6

We have many people tell us Christians that we are never to judge another. I might add, most of those telling us this believe that the truth is relative to a given situation. Now both of those mentalities are – well, idiotic. Before you jump down my throat about that word idiotic ask yourself, “what is the definition of the word?” Let me give it to you from Webster – **“1: characterized by idiocy. 2: showing complete lack of thought or common sense: foolish.”** Now, with that being the definition, do you agree that to tell someone to never judge or that truth is relative is the product of a lack of thought or common sense??

There are billions of people that are NOT Christians. They know little to nothing about the Bible, but I can almost guarantee – they can quote one verse of scripture. ***“judge not lest you be judged.”***

Again, this mentality comes from a complete ignorance about what Jesus IS saying. I appreciate Jordan for reading this morning. I’m going to begin at the end of the text rather than at the beginning. In verse 6 Jesus says, ***“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”***

There are FOUR judgments DEMANDED by Jesus in that one verse.

1. You must determine who/what the dog is in the verse
2. You must determine what is Holy.
3. You must determine what pearls are in this verse.
4. You must determine who/what are pig.

To determine any/all these things you must make judgments about people and things. Jesus does not merely suggest this, He **COMMMANDS** this!!!

So, when we take one verse out of the context like this, then I can make a doctrine that sounds like this, “You Must Judge Everyone and Everything At All Times.” So, you see there is something wrong here.

Many times, over my lifetime I have been talking with someone and as I make an observation they say, “The Bible says not to judge me. How dare you question me or say I’m wrong!” So, people use this passage to tell us that we are NEVER to judge another person. Is that what Jesus is saying? We should just ignore sin in others and leave them alone?

This morning I hope to help everyone see that this is **NOT** what Jesus is teaching. That interpretation of what Jesus is saying is just not possible. Let’s look at a few NT passages that might be of help in this.

*“The spiritual person judges all things but is himself to be judged by no one.”* 1 Cor. 2:15

*“For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside.”* 1 Cor 5:12–13

*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.* Gal 1:8

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.* 1 John 4:1

*But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.* Galatians 2:11

*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.* Matthew 18:15

*Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.* John 7:24

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.* Matthew 7:15–16

The scriptures are clear that we are make judgments. In fact, in this very text Jesus is commanding judgment because we are determining if our brother or sister in Christ has a speck in their eye. So, this must not be saying that there can never be any judgment made. So, we must determine what Jesus does mean so that we are not violating this command.

## **The Reason Not to Judge (7:2-4)**

***“For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”***

The main reason is our own judgment. Jesus is not talking about righteous judgment which comes from God, but human judgment that comes from men who are capable of error. Jesus wants judgment to be fair to all. When God judges you or I do we want Him to be fair or unfair?

Vss 3-4 help us understand the problem Jesus is dealing with. ***“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?”***

Jesus pictures a person who can see everyone else’s faults but is unable to see his own. How easy it is to judge other people but have no desire to judge ourselves by the same measurement! The illustration Jesus uses is intended to be humorous because it is hyperbole.

You see the speck in the eye of another person. You look closely at others and examine their lives to the finest detail that you can see the splinter of wood that is in a person’s eye. But you do not notice the log in your own eye. Now we need to consider how this happens?

How is it possible for a person to not see the glaring plank of wood coming out of one’s own eye? The reason is that we fail to pay attention to ourselves. We fail to look at ourselves. We are so interested in looking at the problems and issues of others that we do not see the enormous failures and glaring shortcomings in our own lives.

This is the very nature of self-righteousness. We condemn others but justify ourselves for the same activity. Have you ever done this? You pass judgment on another person for something that they are doing but when it comes to you and you do the same action, you have a good reason for doing so. You have an excuse as to why it is okay for you and not for others. We apply to others what we are unwilling to apply to ourselves. You judge others without understanding or compassion. James gave us a warning for not seeing ourselves for who we really are.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.* Jas 1:22–24

We do not look in the mirror and see ourselves for who we are and what we have done. This causes self-righteousness and arrogance. How sad it is when we do look into the spiritual mirror and we still cannot see ourselves for who we are! We judge others but do not see ourselves and judge ourselves.

## **The Solution (7:5)**

Jesus calls us hypocrites when we engage in this behavior. When we judge others in a way that we would not judge ourselves, we are hypocrites. When we hold other people to a different standard than we hold ourselves to, we are hypocrites. So, what is the solution? **Look at yourself before you look at others.** Think about your own sin and your own failing before you confront another with their shortcomings. First judge your life by the same judgment you are about to judge another.

Now we can properly understand the first two verses of this chapter. Do not judge with hypocritical judgment! Do you want people to be fault finders in your life? Do you want someone to bring up every mistake you make? Do you want to be nitpicked for every shortcoming in our lives? **No!** Look at yourself first. If you don't want others doing that to you, then why do you do this with others?

## Making Proper Judgments (7:6)

Now we may come to verse 6 and think that this just does not fit what Jesus has been talking about regarding hypocritical judgment. But we are seeing that Jesus is not saying that we should never judge or make evaluations about others. The point is that we would make **proper, godly** evaluations and judgments of others.

*Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.* Matthew 7:6

We must be warned to not waste our time on those who have no interest in the gospel or in the discipleship of Jesus. Pigs were counted as unclean in the Law of Moses and dogs were wild and nasty savages. In the illustration, the pigs and dogs want the scraps of food. They do not want what is good.

We are called to identify who are dogs and pigs. This is not a characterization about the person but understanding **how they treat the gospel message**. This is describing their spiritual condition. They will not appreciate the message. *“Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.”* (Proverbs 23:9 NASB)

## Conclusion

We must not be self-righteous, judging others inappropriately. Consider if you are using a judgment that you would want applied to yourself before you apply it to others. Do not be hypocritical in your teaching or application of God’s word to others. This should be the nature of our teaching and preaching. We can say these important words of God to others because we have first let God word hit our hearts first.

But this does not mean that we do not make any spiritual judgments. We are required to make righteous judgments (John 7:24). We are not naive about what we are doing. We know that there are not going to listen. We know that there are people who do not want to hear and will not respond. There are people who will show contempt for God.