

Intro: You have probably heard it 1000 times. “Who are you YOU to judge me?” I thought Christians aren’t supposed to judge! Or, “Don’t Judge Me!” I only have to answer to God, I really don’t care what you think! It usually comes down to that after you have voiced your opinion about something, or questioned whether or not what someone is doing is the right thing to do.

Many time people will quote the very verse that we are going to study this morning as justification for doing what they want, and refusing to allow anyone to ever suggest that what they are doing might not be right. In fact, while almost anything is acceptable today, the one thing that is NOT acceptable is...saying that something might not be right!

Is that REALLY what Jesus is saying? That there are no circumstances in which we should evaluate actions and behaviors?

Don’t Judge Me!

Matthew 7:1-6 Pg 685

1. First, Understand What Jesus Is REALLY Saying.

Mt 7:1

“Do not judge”

- Obviously not saying don’t judge in ANY way! That everything is acceptable, just “deal with it” bible tells us to judge
 - >Judicial system: Mt 5:25 “Settle matters quickly with your brother” Or, deal with the judge!
 - >Jesus judgement: Bible tells us we will all be judged for what we have done! Rev 20
 - >Jesus TELLS us to judge teachers! Mt 7:15-17 (Judge what they say, how they live, spiritual fruit they bear!)
 - >Paul tells us to judge! 1 Cor 5 (Chapter) We are to pay attention to what happens in life of church, Responsibility
- So then, what is Jesus warning us about? Because that is what we have here...a warning!
He is telling us to be careful about the WAY in which we judge! He is saying to us...Evaluate Carefully, Correctly!
 - >Judge: Lit = Sharp, unjust and unfair criticism! Separate, Distinguish, Discriminate
(Base word we get our term CRITIC from!) Jesus is saying, Don’t be an unfair critic of people!
He is calling us out and saying, don’t pass a guilty verdict on someone unfairly or unjustly!
 - a. Quickly: We look...see...and pass judgment without any reflection, often without all the facts! Opinion
 - b. Unjustly: We don’t fairly evaluate all the evidence. We don’t LIKE it...so it must not be right!
 - c. Condemn: To pass judgment and condemn, say, this is WRONG...and you are BAD because you did it!
 - d. W/O Circumstances: Sometimes there ARE in fact circumstances that help you understand better what took place
 - e. Self-righteous: You did this...you are bad. I didn’t do this...I am good. Oh I wish you were as good as I am!
 - f. See evil and put worst view and twist upon every element of the story

Illus: Couple years ago I was talking with one of my daughters, I said something that I thought was funny...and she responded...you are just being cynical. I took offence...I am not! So she “splained” it to me...and guess what...RIGHT!

Jesus is NOT saying to us, be blind, be oblivious, accept everything, every teaching, every action. What He is warning us about is the temptation we have to judge to quickly, to judge to unfairly, to just from opinion instead of truth.

2. Secondly, Jesus Helps Us Understand The Temptation To Judge Others. Mt 7:

Jer says that our hearts are deceitful and wicked above all things, and you can see this played out here in this passage.

There are three different ways in which we stumble and fall when you look at what Jesus is talking about.

- **Distorted Viewpoint** (Kaleidoscope, or Fun house mirror!)
 - >Look at others faults: Lit = to gaze upon, to focus on, to stare at (Old Joke looking at sky)
 - >Overlook our faults: Lit = To consider, discover, perceive, observe fully (Pantry: Where is the rice?)
We focus on theirs...and we cannot see ours!
- **One Sided Help:** (Focus on THEIR need...never see ours!)
 - >Let me help you get the sin out of your eye
 - >Never once consider that there might be something in our own eye!
 - Illus: Story of the Pharisee and the tax collector! Luke 18:9-13
- **Uneven Scale:** Our scale doesn’t work well (Butcher)
That’s what we do Jesus says...We put our thumb on the scale...so it always comes out in OUR favor!
 - >Speck: Lit = splinter or piece of sawdust
 - >Beam: Lit = Squared off piece of timber!
 - Q: What is the scale like in your life?
 - Q: What do YOU see? Most of us see what we WANT to see.

QUOTE:

If you judge charitably, making proper allowances for the frailties of your brethren, and are ready to pity and pardon their faults, God and man will deal with you in the same kind manner; but if you always put the worst construction on everything that it will bear, and are not touched with the feeling of your brother’s infirmities, and show no mercy in the opinions you form of his character and actions, no mercy will be shown to you from any quarter; God will treat you as you deserve, in the just judgment he shall pass upon your actions, and the world will be sure to retaliate the injury.”

3. Understand the Process of “Judging” Correctly.

Mt 7:5-6

So, now that we know what we are to avoid...And what we are to be careful of...and where the temptation is...What do we do? How are we to go about “Judging” Correctly? What SHOULD we be doing...How do we do it RIGHT?

Notice what Jesus tells us to do here. I love the bible because it always gives us direction. Doesn't leave us hanging.

I think Jesus Gives us six different attitudes that will help us tremendously as we appropriately JUDGE!!!

- **FOCUS:** Focus on yourself FIRST.
First: Lit = *First in order of time...and First in priority.*
Self-awareness and self judgement. If you want to judge someone...start in the mirror!
Before you start to work on your brother...work on yourself.
Most of us have MORE than enough
- **GRACE:** Secondly, After you deal with YOUR stuff...THEN you can help others!
An amazing thing happens when you develop self-awareness.
It makes you more forgiving of YOURSELF...AND it makes you more forgiving of OTHERS!
Illus: One of the things that I look for now when I'm hiring staff, and when I'm mentoring other Pastors
Is someone that has failed...and how they have responded to that failure
Something happens when you do everything RIGHT...and it still goes WRONG! (Called LIFE)
But, until you have had that happen...experience failure...done your best...bad outcome
And learned how to have grace for yourself...you haven't developed grace for others!
- **MEASURE:** Always keep this in mind. The measuring stick that you use for others...is the one he uses for you
That is why that issue of grace is so important. Because until you have done it right...and had it go wrong...not ready
You don't have much grace. If you only have the life experience of success...If all you have done is succeed...EASY
Illus: Like the people without children telling you how to raise children
Or, people with a compliant child giving you direction on a strong willed child. NOT A CLUE!
Once you have had to be gracious with yourself...and your failures...and your shortcomings...
Once you have done everything right and STILL failed...Just because life happens
You become much more gracious with others.
Do you want to use the standard of “*We don't make mistakes around here?*” Then all good...until YOU make mistake!

Luke 6:36-38

- **MERCIFUL:** Lit = *Compassionate, gentle, full of tender mercy*
This is the kind of attitude we are to have toward others...And notice, it is the EXACT attitude God has for us
He extends MERCY to us...and NOT JUSTICE!
God does NOT give us what we deserve...So we should be kind and compassionate, just like He is!
Forgiving...Extending Grace and generosity of Spirit to others.
- **FORGIVING:** Lit = *to relieve, release or dismiss a debt that is rightfully owed!*
That is what God does for us...and because we have received that forgiveness...we should EXTEND that to others!
And if we don't...then That limits the expression of forgiveness in our lives.
If you don't want to forgive others because it is the right thing to do, then forgive out of SELF INTEREST!!!
Whatever measuring stick you use for others...God is going to use that for YOU!!!
- **GIVING:** Lit = *to offer; hand over, turn over to or bestow upon*
Give to someone...whatever they need. Forgiveness, Grace, Love, compassion, understanding
This is the principal of sowing and reaping.
Gal 6:7 “*Don't be deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever you so, that is what you reap!*”
The more generous you are with others when they fail...the more grace you can expect when you fail
The less generous you are, the more of a taskmaster...that is how you can expect them to be with you.

CONCL: Here Jesus is giving us the basic ground rules for being a disciple. And as a part of that he says clearly,
Treat others the way God treats you! Be cautious and careful when someone fails...Don't Condemn

- Q: When someone fails...are you the prosecutor...the warden...the public defender...or the Chaplain?
- Q: How often do you give into the temptation to Judge others harshly? Distorted view? One Sided view? Uneven Scale?
- Q: What do you GIVE to those who fail? Grace or Judgment? Forgiveness or Condemnation?
- Q: Based on your interactions with others this week...How is God going to Judge you? (Same Measuring Tape!)

If you need to have a little “Attitude Adjustment” Come...Ask God for some help

Maybe you need to come and ask God to prepare the way for you to go to someone this afternoon...ask forgiveness for how you treated them this past week. If you need to do that...don't wait...No better time to get it right than today.