

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Sixteen • Matthew 7:1-6

Jesus on Judging

To Judge or Not to Judge?

As Christ followers we are not to relate JUDGMENTALLY to people but rather we are to relate MERCIFULLY to people.

Jesus on Judging

1. The Command: Don't JUDGE with Superiority!

"Judge not..." Matthew 7:1a

What Did Jesus Mean?

- Jesus did not mean we should avoid making JUDGMENTS. Matthew 7:6, 13-16
- Jesus did mean we should avoid being JUDGMENTAL. Luke 18:9-12

Making Judgments VS Being Judgmental

You judge someone not when you DISCERN their position, but when you DISMISS them as a person.

2. The Reason: You Will Be JUDGED Likewise!

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you." Matthew 7:1-2

What Does This Mean?

The judgment one uses is like a BOOMERANG and will come back on the one who judges.

3. The Principle: Judge YOURSELF First!

The Illustration: Specks & Logs

"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?" Matthew 7:3

What Did Jesus Mean?

- Jesus attacks our HYPOCRISY of fault-finding.

"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?" Matthew 7:4
- Jesus insists on INTEGRITY in our lives first.

"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye..." Matthew 7:5a
- Jesus commends MERCY toward one another.

"...and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Matthew 7:5b

4. The Application: Exercise Discerning JUDGMENT!

The Illustration: Dogs & Pigs

"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

Heart Considerations

- Do you judge others for small faults and allow yourself room for great faults?
- Are you indignant about the sins of others and indifferent to your own sins?
- Do you have a tendency to justify yourself by condemning others or do you sense a need for personal repentance of sin in your own life first?
- Do you correct in light of the way you would want to be corrected if someone were dealing with you for your faults and sins?
- Do you exercise discernment in sharing the Gospel with those who treat it with contempt and engaging in appropriate activities that promote rather than hinder the Gospel?