

A Study on the Sermon on the Mount

Judge Not

Matthew 7:1-6

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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. 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?

Matthew 7:1-6, continued

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

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.

Princeton Seminary Study

- Present report
- Different building
- Better hurry
- Man injured
- Will I help?
- Reports were on:
 - Jobs for graduates
 - Good Samaritan



Criticism is

- A rejection of the spirit to help others
- Selfish
- Self-focused, to make us seem better
- The opposite spirit of the Beatitudes
 - Poor in spirit
 - Merciful

1. Don't Judge Inwardly

- Judging limits what God will do in us
- “For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite’” (Isa. 57:15).

Don't Judge

- We lack the authority and knowledge
- “You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me” (John 8:15-16)
- “In passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things” (Rom. 2:1-2)

When we judge inwardly...

- *Krino*, “to pick out,” “to separate”
- We will not experience God’s presence
- Pharisee and the Tax Collector: “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (Luke 18:14)
- “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5)

A critical spirit

- Can be a satanic stronghold (2 Cor. 10:4-5)
- Brings us into judgment with God (Jas 4:6)
- Lessens our dependence on grace (Rom 2:1)
- Destroys our joy and our hope (Rom 15:13)
- Brings us into conflict with others (Mt 7:2)
- Stagnates our personal growth (2 Pet 3:18)
- Weakens our spiritual strength (Jas 4:6)
- Makes us ineffective in service (2 Pet 1:3-8)

2. Do not outwardly reprove

- Ishmael: “His hand will be against everyone, and everyone’s hand will be against him” (Gen. 16:12)
- The speck and the plank
- “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light” (Matt. 6:22)

Matthew Henry wrote:

There are degrees in sin: some sins are comparatively but as motes, others as beams; some as a gnat, others as a camel: not that there is any little sin, for there is no little God to sin against.

The Bible says:

- **“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. We all stumble in many ways” (James 3:1-2a).**
- **“For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God ... Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother” (Romans 14:10-13)**

If you are in leadership...

- **Make your own life's development your primary project.**
- **Seek to be the best example you can be in all important areas.**
- **Deal with your subordinates with kindness but with clarity.**
- **Focus on goals and on their development. Instill hope in them, not defeatism.**
- **Limit the influence of judgmental people.**

3. Do not lower the standard of truth and righteousness

- Dogs, pigs, pearls
- “Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse ... Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you” (Prov. 7:7-8).
- “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with righteous judgement” (John 7:24)

The Bible says:

- 1 Cor 6:2-3, “Or do you not know that the saints will judge (*krino*) the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try (*kriterion*) trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life.”

Kriterion: the Word of God

- “An instrument or means to judge or evaluate something”
- “Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).
- “Don’t go beyond what is written” (1 Cor. 4:6).

The Beatitudes

- **Poor in spirit**
- **Mourning for sin**
- **Meekness before God (surrender)**
- **Holy appetites**
- **Mercifulness toward others**
- **Purity of heart**
- **Make peace: This non-judgmental attitude toward others is simply these attitudes working themselves out in application.**