

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 28TH-29TH, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

DO NOT JUDGE? (MATT. 7:1-6) TAKEN WAY OUT OF CONTEXT!

Matthew 7:1-2 may be the most misunderstood passage in the entire Bible, and everyone seems to know it by heart.

- Jesus was not making a blanket prohibition about making judgments, **but warning us to not make hypocritical judgments that lack humility and wisdom.**

WHAT STANDARD SHOULD WE USE TO JUDGE?

Our standard of right and wrong always comes up short and reveals our self-righteousness, so we must use a higher standard to make sound judgments.

- **We are to make judgments in every corner of life by using God's standards of how to live, and we must be prepared to be held to those same standards.**

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW CHRIST WITHOUT JUDGING

The principles taught in the Sermon on the Mount cannot be lived out without making judgments in our everyday lives.

- One of Jesus' biggest challenges to His disciples was to live above the religious, political, and world views of righteousness and decide (judge) to follow a higher standard.
- **JOHN 7:24 (CSB)**

WE ARE CALLED TO REMOVE "SPLINTERS"

The most misused part of this section is v3-5. We quickly say that no one can judge us because they also have faults.

- Though it is true we are all imperfect, **those of us that may have overcome certain sins are called to help those who haven't by pointing out sin and teaching them why it is wrong.**

WE LOVE TO PLAY THE BLAME GAME

A lot of us approach scripture with a "Look at the evil in the world!" mentality when **Christ is trying to get us to see the evil within ourselves.**

- If we are to be splinter removers, **we must first deal with the sin in us. We cannot address the evil of the world with evil still in us.**

WHAT IF PEOPLE HAVE NO DESIRE TO LISTEN?

V6 is a little shocking. We're not to be critical, but discerning about people (this is a gift we need to pray for). Jesus tells us that some people will only distract and waste precious time.

- **Forcing the gospel on unwilling people will push them away and detract us from talking to someone who may be receptive**

ENEMIES OF THE GOSPEL?

There are also some people that are turned over to depraved minds (Rom. 1:28) that have no desire but to hate the idea of God.

- **Christians often care more about winning arguments than sharing our faith in love. We need to have the wisdom and discernment to know when to move on and just pray.**

- **TITUS 3:1-3**

PERSISTENT (MATT. 7:7-11)

JESUS CARES ABOUT US RIGHT THIS SECOND

When Jesus told His disciples to "ask," "seek," and "knock," He was probably talking about addressing their daily needs and concerns.

- Jesus is urging us to be **consistently dependent on Him and persistent in asking Him for what we need on a daily basis.** He is a good Father that wants to provide for His children.

3 ASKS RECEIVES 3 ANSWERS

Jesus uses 3 verbs to drive the point of depending on God for our needs, and He uses three answers, "receives," "finds," "door will be opened" to show that **if we consistently seek God, He will consistently provide.**

- **This doesn't mean we get whatever we want, but what an all-knowing God wants for us!**
- **JAMES 4:3-4 (CSB)**

SEEKING AND ASKING FOR HIS WANTS

It is a challenging thing, but we're to position ourselves to seek the desires of God first. If we ask for His will, we're blessed because of it.

- **It boils down to humility**, something humanity struggles to embody. **We have to admit we need help and accept His ways regardless of how we feel.**

HOW DO WE PERCEIVE GOD?

Jesus uses an analogy of a good parent that would never give their child a "stone" when they ask for "bread." The analogy begs us to ask how do we see God?

- **Do we really trust Him to provide? Do we impose our feelings of imperfect human relationships onto a perfect God? Are we honest right now?**

HE ISN'T THE ONE THAT HURT US

This portion of scripture provides comfort for the deep needs of many adults who are inwardly abandoned and broken children.

- God is not the abuser, but the One that helps the abused. **He loves us and wants good things for us, but we must let Him heal and deliver us from our pasts!**

THE GOLDEN RULE (MATT. 7:12) UNDERSTOOD, BUT NOT LIVED OUT

If Matt. 7:1-2 is the most misunderstood passage of the Bible, Matt. 7:12 is the least practiced.

- The "Golden Rule" is one of the most common phrases in teaching people how to treat others, even outside of Christianity. The problem is our lack of application.

SIMPLE, SO INCREDIBLY SIMPLE

Jesus plainly states, **"whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them."**

When Jesus says, "this is the Law and the Prophets" He us saying that the whole of the OT scripture embodies this simple command.

- **We need to go back to a simple obedience of the Bible's commands!**

JESUS WILL LATER SIMPLIFY THE ENTIRE BIBLE

In Matt. 22:37-40 Jesus will clarify the overarching teachings of the Bible into 2 simple phrases: **Love God and love others.**

- **The Golden Rule is a reflection of the greatest command, to love God above all things.** These two commands cannot be separated.

ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE?

- **We are all called to make righteous judgments.** We are able to do this by **studying the Word and praying for the gifts of discernment and wisdom.**
- We are also called to help others with sin, but we must first address the evil that is in us.

DO WE TRUST THE FATHER?

- Do we consistently pray for God to provide for our needs? **Do we seek His will and submit to His ways?**
- How do we perceive God? As good Father?
- Do we find identity in what has been done to us? Is this what keeps us from letting God move us forward?

DO WE LOVE GOD AND MANKIND?

- There is no divorcing a love of God and a love of other people. Neither is completely possible without the other.
- **Do we do our best to practice the "Golden Rule?"** Do we stop in times of frustration and ask, "Is this how I would want to be treated?"

WHAT ABOUT THE EVIL IN US?

- We are masters of looking at the world around us and pointing fingers and placing blame. **But, what about our evil?** What about us being held to a higher standard and level of accountability? **What is our "beam of wood?"**