

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Clearing Criticism from your Cornea

Matthew 7:1-5

Questions

- Do Christians enjoy power, gifts, and standards of judgment which qualify them to exert a particular authority over others?
- Is your life defined more by: what you do and don't do, your knowledge of right and wrong, or glorifying and worshipping Jesus?

Chapter 7 centers on the concept of judgment.

Chapter 5 gives the description of the Christian and character.

- Having described the Christian as he is and in his setting, the Lord gives particular instructions with regard to living in this world.
- He starts with one's relationship to the Law.
- The Christian is taught:
 - i. How to behave in general
 - ii. How life is to be applied to the law
 - iii. What God expects of a Christian.

Chapter 6 focuses on describing the Christian living out this life in the world, especially in fellowship with His Father.

- A culture of nurturing inner spiritual life is always to be done remembering: the Father's eyes are watching.
- If we are out to please ourselves or to impress others, we may as well do nothing.

COMMAND

"Judge not..." Matthew 7:1a
SEPARATE SIN FROM SINNER!

- While we must judge between good and evil, we are told not to pass judgment on (condemn) other individuals.

REASON #1

"That you be not judged." Matthew 7:1b

THAT YOU YOURSELVES MAY NOT BE JUDGED

- But what exactly does this mean? Many believe it is this:
 - Don't judge others if you don't want to be judged.
 - As you do to others they will do to you.
 - The person who is less critical is more appreciated by others, and is not subject to criticism in the same way a critical person is.
- In the Scriptures, we are taught that there are three kinds of judgment:
 1. **THE GREAT DIVIDING**: Those who belong to God and those who don't.
 - There is a judgment which is final and eternal, the judgment which determines a man's status or his standing before God.
 - This is the judgment which determines and settles man's final destiny, his eternal condition, heaven or hell (John 3:16-21).
 2. **GOD JUDGES HIS CHILDREN**: 1 Corinthians 11:27-32
 - This is not negative.
 - If we are guilty of habitual sin or wrong living, we will be lovingly disciplined by our heavenly Father (1 Corinthians 5).
 - We must look at trials the right way (Hebrews 12:5-11, Psalm 73:12-14).
 - The exhortation is to examine and judge ourselves and confess what's sin in order to escape this judgment as God's child
 3. **JUDGMENT OF REWARDS**: Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; 3:11-17
 - This is a judgment which is going to affect our eternal destiny, by what happens to us in glory.

SUMMARY: THE CHIEF REASON WHY CHRISTIANS MUST NOT JUDGE IS THAT WE BE NOT JUDGED OURSELVES BY THE LORD.

REASON #2

YOU ARE JUDGED BY YOUR OWN YARDSTICK

“For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” Matthew 7:2

- Romans 2:1
- James 3:1
- If we sit in judgment upon others, we have no right to complain if we are judged by that very standard.

REASON #3

WE ARE INCAPABLE OF JUDGMENT: WE ARE UNOBJECTIVE

“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” Matthew 7:3

- We don’t use an objective standard.
 - We are not really concerned regarding righteousness and true judgment at all because if we really were, we would start with ourselves.
- We are not really interested in principles, but in persons!
 - True judgment has not prejudice, nothing personal, must be unbiased, objective judgment.

OUR CONDITION IS THAT WE ARE INCAPABLE OF HELPING OTHERS

“Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye,’ and look, a plank is in your own eye?” Matthew 7:4

- If you want to be able to see clearly to remove this minute speck out of the sensitive eye of that other person you are interested in, make certain your own eye is quite clear. You cannot help another while you are blinded by the beam in your own eye.

CHRIST ACTUALLY CONDEMNS US AS HYPOCRITES

“Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” Matthew 7:5

- A critical spirit is the telephone pole in your eye, it’s how you see.

Cutting it Straight in 2008

When a person truly sees themselves they never judge anybody else in the wrong way! I need to get rid of the beam of criticism!

Tolerance is a buzzword today (Postmodernism, relativism)

- Proverbs 29:18
- Isaiah 3:12
- Watch out who we receive advice/counsel/teaching from.

How we speak, and what we speak about...

- Ephesians 5:8-14
- Judging others blinds us to the Truth

Discipleship does not afford us a point of vantage from which to attack others; we come to them with an unconditional offer of fellowship, with the single-mindedness of the love of Christ. ~Bonhoeffer

- When we judge others, our real motive is to justify ourselves.

The source of the Christian’s life is in his fellowship with Christ

- A Christian possesses his righteousness only within that relationship, never outside of it.
- 1 John 1:6-10
- It is not an approved standard of righteous living that separates a disciple of Christ from the unbeliever, but it is Christ who stands between them.