



Sermons of the Savior

Matthew 7:1-6

Lesson 14

Judge or not to *judge* - that can be the question or dilemma. Sometimes the Bible tells us to *judge*; sometimes it does not. In each case, it is very emphatic. Therefore, it is important that we understand God's intentions for us regarding when and how we are to *judge*. May this lesson give you both understanding and a fresh call to both *judge* when God calls for it and refrain from *judging* when He does not.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 7:1-6

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
Key Words: *judge/judged/judgment, speck, plank, and not/nor*
4. The contrasting word *but* is used once in these verses. Mark it and record what is being contrasted.
5. Jesus teaches us two things we are *not* to do in these verses. What are they?

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. What are some of your pet peeves?

2. How do you tend to respond when someone does something you don't like or you disagree with?
3. How do you tend to respond to someone who inaccurately attributes to you evil motives?

JUDGE NOT: Read Matthew 7:1-2

1. *Judge* or not to *judge*. Matthew 7:1-2 calls us *not to judge*. These verses do not mean that a child of God is forbidden to judge others, but it does mean that we are not to judge the inward motives of others in the sense of condemning them. How does this clarification help you to understand God's command *Judge not*?
2. In 1 Corinthians, Paul addressed the problem of passing judgments (good and bad) on various preachers. Paul reminded them that the motives of our heart cannot really be determined now. What did he write in 1 Corinthians 3:13 (speaking of the day God will judge the works of believers for the purpose of rewarding us)?
 - a. Add the words of 1 Corinthians 4:3-4 to this.
 - 1.) Why is it good to remember this truth?
3. According to Matthew 7:1,2, what can happen if we *judge* others?
 - a. Jesus used the word *measure* in a different context in the following verses. Record what He taught.
 - 1.) Mark 4:24
 - 2.) Luke 6:38
 - a.) What can we learn about God's reaction to our actions from these verses?
 - b.) God not only sees when we *judge* another, He responds towards us in like manner. Reflect upon Psalm 18:25,26. What are your thoughts?

4. Paul presented this question in 1 Corinthians 10:29: *Why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?* Record Paul's question in your own words.

5. James also addresses the subject of *judging* others. Read James 4:11-12. What action does James equate to *judging a brother*?
 - a. How is *speaking evil* of someone an act of *judging*?

SPECKS AND PLANKS: Read Matthew 7:3-4

1. According to Matthew 7:3,4 what do those who *judge* often do?

2. Jesus condemned two actions in these two verses. What are they?
 - a. What kinds of faults do you tend to *look at*?

 - b. When are you tempted to move from *looking* at someone's fault to *saying* something to them about their fault?

3. Jesus labeled the faults of our brothers as *specks* and calls us to view our own faults as *planks*. There are times when we might argue that one. Jesus understands that the faults of others can be severe. Yet, He did not qualify His statement. Why should we have this viewpoint?

4. How does Galatians 6:1 relate to Matthew 7:3,4?

5. If Jesus asked you the questions of Matthew 7:3,4, how would you answer Him? (Be real. You can't fool Jesus!)

HYPOCRITE! Read Matthew 7:5

1. Record the first word of Matthew 7:5
 - a. Jesus typically reserved this word for the Pharisees. Knowing how Jesus felt about *hypocrisy*, how does it speak to you reading that Jesus views those who *judge* as *hypocrites*?

2. Notice that Jesus does not forbid the *removing of the speck from a brother's eye*. What does He tell us we must do *first*?
 - a. Why is it important to deal with our own sins before we confront the sins of another?

 - b. How does a believer *remove the plank that is in his own eye*?
Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

3. Matthew 7:5 gives us permission to address another's *speck*. Scripture calls us to do so. What was Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 5:9-13?
 - a. What should be our concern(s) when we are aware of the sins of another brother/sister?

 - b. Paul cautioned the Corinthians against *judging those on the outside*. Why do you think we are called to *judge* believers, but not unbelievers?

4. What is the difference between the *judging* called for in 1 Corinthians 5 and the *judging* forbidden in Matthew 7:1,2?

5. Why do you think it is easier to *judge* as Jesus forbade in Matthew 7:1,2 than to *judge* as Paul commanded in 1 Corinthians 5:9-13?

CASTING PEARLS: Read Matthew 7:6

1. What does Jesus call us *not* to do in this verse?
2. Jesus used the word *holy* and *pearls* to describe God's principles. Read other translations or paraphrases of this verse and then write it in your own words.

3. Record the wisdom of the following verses:

Proverbs 9:7

Proverbs 23:9

- a. What can we learn from these proverbs?
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3. *Dogs* refers to scavenger dogs. *Swine* were viewed by the Jews to be *unclean*. They referred to Gentiles as *swine*. These may seem to be derogatory terms. Jesus is referring to those who are not open to the gospel; who oppose what is *holy*; who shun the valuable *pearls* of God's wisdom. What does Jesus say in this verse that could happen when we *give what is holy* to those who oppose it?
 - a. Resistance to the gospel is normal and to be expected. This is not a warning to avoid sharing it. Rather it is a warning to be discerning. How did Jesus exemplify this in:

Matthew 21:23-27

Luke 23:6-9

- 1.) What do you think Jesus' discerned about the Pharisees and Herod that caused Him to determine not to *give them what was holy*?

REVIEW: Read Matthew 7:1-6

1. What has this lesson taught you about:

not *judging*

the Biblical calling to *judge*

Discerning how and when to *judge*

2. Why is it important to be aware of our own *planks*?

3. Why is it often not beneficial to confront an unbeliever about their sin?

4. Why is it important to not ignore the sins of a believer?

5. Why do you think God calls those who improperly *judge* others *hypocrites*?

*"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
- Luke 6:37*

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 7:1-6

"Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. ⁶Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.