

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”

BIG IDEA . . . Part 14: True Judgment – Stop Judging! (Matt. 7:1-6)

INTRO: We come to the final section in Jesus greatest sermon (SOM). Ch. 5 called us to True Righteousness, esp. in how we relate to others. Ch. 6 led us to True Worship in ways to worship and what not to worship (money). Ch. 7 informs us about True Judgement (of self, of others, by God). As before Jesus’ words are convicting and challenging.

CONTEXTUALLY Jesus continues His comparison of the false, proud, external, self-righteousness of the religious establishment to His higher standard of true righteousness that is internal, humble, broken, and in pursuit of God and His desires (5:20; 6:33). In Ch. 7 He addresses the topic of who when and how to judge others (a favorite hobby for too many). Our world is a criticizing and judgmental place. We’ve moved past critical to cancel. **READ** Matt. 7:1-6 . . . There are some surefire ways to get someone to quote the Bible . . . Other than John 3:16, Matt. 7:1 maybe a favorite verse to quote for saved and lost alike, usually quoted in self-defense. It must be understood in its context – still a difficult passage – where we (me) find ourselves all too often confessing the sin of wrongly judging others and having a critical spirit.

PRINCIPLE: Before judging others, we should first judge ourselves, then we can humbly help others with their sin struggles.

I. WHAT DOES JESUS *NOT* MEAN?

He is not saying don’t discern, evaluate, or make judgments. He is NOT forbidding making necessary judgments. He is for legal judgments in courts of law (He established them.) Scriptures – 7:15-20; 18:15-20; Jn. 7:24; Rom. 14:3, 13; Jam. 2:1-4, 8-10.

II. WHAT *DOES* JESUS MEAN?

A. Remember, He’s contrasting the righteousness they created to that which he desired. Jesus is demanding that they (we) stop all self-defending, critical, better-than-you judging of others based (not on biblical standards) but on someone’s personal appearances or behaviors, their motives, comparing to our experiences and standards, other’s actions without the complete facts. 9 of 10 young people view Christians as judgmental.

B. *Judging* is about discerning the truth based on Scripture or knowable facts

C. *Judgmentalism* is about finding fault with people, based upon personal feelings and assumptions. Jesus condemns self-righteous, hyper-critical judgmentalism for several reasons:

1. We don’t know all the facts (Pro. 18:13) – Funny – owner of warehouse . . . delivering pizza! Judging behavioral appearances is dangerous.
2. We don’t know someone’s motives (1 Cor. 4:5)
3. We must distinguish between biblical issues and personal preferences. Some things are clearly a violation of Scripture and some things are always right by the Bible. Other issues are “gray” and there is freedom to choose if not causing someone to stumble (Rom. 14:3). Most of our judging others is in the area. Be careful if no clear Bible standard.
4. We are all sinners (Rom. 3:23). Each of us has the same struggle with sin, though the specific sin may different all offend God! Wrongly, we think our sins look and smell better than others. Easy to gloss over ours and gossip about the grossness of others. As those in a relationship with God, we are better off, but never better than anyone else. All have issues (vv. 3-4). Easier to see “speck” in other’s eye than the “log” in our own. Let’s deal with our log first, “then” offer help to others. Our own sins should confront us more than the sins of others. S. Harris quote . . .

ILLUS: “Objects in mirrors are closer than they appear” (image) . . . It is hypocritical to sit in judgment of others without a clear word from God. Hypocrites always over judge others and under judge themselves.

5. We will be judged by the standard of judgment we use on others (v.2). We wrongly think we have the right standard and judge others by own. We will get what we give to others. Probably refers to God’s judgment of us (Rom. 2:1-3).
6. We will all face God in judgment (Jn. 5:24; 8:16; Rom. 14:4; 1 Cor. 4:3; Jam. 4:12). Let God be God. He alone knows all the facts and motives. We must embrace careful and righteous judgments.

III. WHAT DOES RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT LOOK LIKE? Jn.

7:24 - Rightly judging others must be done:

- A. In the right ORDER (self-first – “get log out of own eye first”). Take a good honest look at you first (v.3 notice)? How do we do that? Confession and repentance. ‘THEN’ (v.5) we can help

others. To let others go on in their sin and say nothing is to hate him (Lev. 19:17.) Look at Peter (Lk. 22:31-32).

B. With the right HEART – Gently, humbly, graciously, compassionately, etc. We may need it ourselves later.

C. For the right REASON “to help and strengthen them.” Ex: Peter. See Gal. 6:1-2.

“What about those who are foolish or evil and refuse to be helped?” v.6 is a fascinating verse telling us to make wise judgments. In that day both “dogs” and “pigs” were seen as filthy, ugly, scavengers. Don’t give “holy things” is a reference to the temple sacrifices (unblemished). To give to a dog would be sacrilegious. Plus, who gives expensive “pearls” to a “pig”? They will step on them and attack you. H. Cloud on “The Wise, the Foolish and the Evil.” Don’t waste your time (2 Pet. 2:22; Pro. 14:7). Don’t waste the invaluable on the uninterested!

CONC: Listen beloved, we must make judgments. At times we must evaluate and discriminate, but they must be proper, righteous judgments, AFTER we have dealt with our own sin struggles.

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