

Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Accountability

Sunday, November 13/22 --- Matthew 7:1 – 6

Judge not, that you be not judged... 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?! - Matthew 7:1 – 3

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. - Romans 14:4

The command to 'judge not' is not a requirement to be blind, but rather a plea to be generous...We have a fatal tendency to exaggerate the faults of others and minimize the gravity of our own. We seem to find it impossible, when comparing ourselves with others, to be strictly objective and impartial. On the contrary, we have a rosy view of ourselves and a jaundiced view of others.

- John R. W. Stott, Christian Counter-Culture

Introduction: The past three years have shown us that much anxiety arises out of conflicts with each other over differing opinions. When this occurs, Jesus has some advice about the role we should play in each others' lives. The bottom line is – be diligent to first walk your own righteous path.

1. We are warned against acting as Judges (7:1 – 2)
2. We are warned against acting Hypocritically (7:3 – 5)
3. We are warned against acting Indiscriminately (7:6)
4. We are called to act as Brothers and Sisters of each other (7:3 – 5)

Discussion Question:

There will always be religious people who try and create a moral climate that causes everyone to look around at those not living up to the code (5:20). The problem is it makes hypocrites of us all and tempts us to play God. There is a better way – let God be God and let each one of us focus on our own righteous path to walk.

- *Are we Christians known to be judgmental? Why, or why not? How could we live out this teaching of Jesus better, and not be hypocritical in our faith?*
- *What do we learn about lovingly confronting something wrong in someone else? (cf. Mt 18:15) Is there a time and way to do it, and a time not to?*

Challenge:

Stretch your capacity for tolerance by having an in-person conversation with someone who thinks differently than you on a subject. Learn to listen, love and find some common ground.