

Spiritual How-to's
The Right Way to Judge
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**INTRO. One of the most popular scriptures, even by non believers is our text for today –
“Judge not, that you be not judged.” Matthew 7:1**

Many interpret this verse as Jesus’ **universal acceptance** of all lifestyles. So, don’t judge me!

But let’s look deeper into what these verses **actually do teach about judging others -
Beginning with reading the passage. Matthew 7:1-6 ESV**

I. The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7

- A. Remember, Jesus is **not presenting the gospel** in this sermon. But rather, He is presenting **ethical messages about life in His kingdom**.
- B. He now moves from ideas and themes centered with **our internal spiritual life**, like prayer, fasting, materialism & anxiety **to how we treat others**.
- C. It’s been said that Jesus, as the great Rabbi, is using the rabbinical teaching technique called **“Pearls on a String”**, which link unrelated topics together.
- D. Vigorously against **the Pharisee’s duplicity and hypocrisy**, the unspoken audience here is always them and **those who hold to their prideful**, and unspiritual comparisons and judgments.
- E. So, **what is He saying here?** Let’s look at what **He is NOT saying** first.

II. Jesus was not prohibiting judgment of others. What He said was we must first judge ourselves by the same standard and measure.

- A. Every day, in many ways, we all make judgments.
 - 1. Judgments about where to spend our time, with whom, where to spend our \$, who to associate with & support, what is important to us, what we value, What we allow, what we tolerate. What lane to take, way to walk, and words to say.
 - 2. **Judge not, or refuse to be a critic full of bias towards others** & judgement will not be passed on to you that way.
 - 3. **Don’t condemn others and you won’t be condemned.**
 - 4. The standard you use, will be used on you.
“He who usurps the bench, shall be called to the bar.”
- B. The standard or bar we hold for others, will be held to us.
 - 1. That clearly states we will be judging others
 - 2. It’s hypocritical judging that is prohibited
- C. The same portion we give out is what we will receive.
- D. That is why this lesson is called **THE RIGHT WAY TO JUDGE**

III. Judging ourselves

A. **We must judge ourselves and our own actions not our brothers.**

1. Not sit in judgment seat and make our world a law for everybody
2. Not judge others harshly, partially, unmercifully. Not judge their heart, their intentions.

B. **We must first address our own sinfulness, allowing God, the Judge to judge us.**

1. To help us see the plank we have in our life.
2. That plank that is our blind spot, prohibiting us from seeing others clearly.

C. Allowing God, to **remove from us the plank, log, (the idea of building), those building blocks contributing** to our judgmental spirit of others.

D. How can we begin to help anyone when our own life is tarnished by the same sin?

E. We are **hypocrites** if we do. Pretenders. AND THAT IS WHAT JESUS WAS TALKING ABOUT.

F. We must **deal honestly with our own faults**. Admit, confess, repent, receive grace, mercy. Only then are we able to help someone else with their speck.

G. **Our own sins ought to appear greater to us than the same sins in others.**

H. The right way to judge is to judge yourself. Get right with The Judge of the Universe, who offers you mercy, grace, love and acceptance.

1. Then, with that same measure (limitless) offer that victory key to others
2. And by the same standard, unconditional love, offer it to others
3. **We are called to unconditional love but NOT unconditional acceptance.**

IV. Some examples of **unjust judgment**.

A. **Moses** Ex. 2:11-15 – He judged the Egyptian with the same violence he accused him of

B. The **woman with expensive ointment** Matt. 26:6-13 – The disciples called it a waste & judged her unjustly because Jesus said it was good.

C. The **woman caught in adultery** John 8:3-11 – The Pharisees had a plank in their own eyes and could not see clearly. The woman had a speck in her eye.

D. When we think the worst of others. Or judge an entire life by its worst moments. Or judge hidden motives of others. Or speak of others faults. Or when we don't put ourselves in others shoes. Or when we forget that we too will be judged. Or when we are more tolerant of our sin than we are of others.

E. Judgmental attitudes and self-blind criticism produce unjust judgment.

V. To seal it all off, Jesus ends this discourse with telling us to be wise enough to realize that there will be those who will not accept what you have to offer.

A. In other words, use your discerning judgment to keep yourself from giving precious kingdom pearls to those who are hostile or contemptuous towards it.

B. Be wise and practice the right way to judge. Judge self, look for opportunity to share but be wise.

C. In these days, judgments & accusations are flying everywhere. They are hard to miss.

D. But may we be ones who refuse to be critics, except of ourselves, before God.