

## Matthew 7:1-5

### Introduction

- ✓ In chapter seven, Jesus turns His attention to \_\_\_\_\_ within the new kingdom community.

#### I. Matthew 7:1a – The Command: Judge not.

##### A. What Jesus is *not* saying

1. Jesus is not saying that we should \_\_\_\_\_ when there is sin in the body (Matthew 18:15-17).
2. Jesus is not saying that we should unquestioningly \_\_\_\_\_ everyone's sincerity and integrity (Matthew 7:15-20).
3. Jesus did not say "Judge not" so that we could \_\_\_\_\_ behind these words and \_\_\_\_\_ our own failings.

##### B. What Jesus *is* saying

- ✓ Jesus is warning us against a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit... not just for the sake of another warning, but because He \_\_\_\_\_ **our** \_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Matthew 7:1-2 – The first reason

##### A. This warning is:

1. Perfectly \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Extremely \_\_\_\_\_.

- B. Jesus shows us that we do *not* judge *ourselves* by the \_\_\_\_\_ standard that we use for others.

##### C. But God does not tolerate \_\_\_\_\_ standards.

1. When we judge our brother for his failings, God will be less \_\_\_\_\_ toward us.
2. "To be quick to call others to account is to \_\_\_\_\_ God to call us to account" (Morris)

##### D. A judgmental or critical spirit \_\_\_\_\_ means that we have a double standard. So...

1. We must learn to give others the \_\_\_\_\_ of the doubt.

2. We must learn to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our judgments.
  - a. James 5:9 – Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
  - b. James 4:11-12 – Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?
  - c. James 2:13 – For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### III. Matthew 7:3-5 – The second reason

- A. “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?”
  1. Speck –
  2. Log –
  3. The sin \_\_\_\_\_ sees in *me* is a whole lot more serious than the failure \_\_\_\_\_ see in my brother.
    - a. 1 Timothy 1:15 – The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
    - b. Our own sins should seem painfully \_\_\_\_\_ to us, while our brother’s sins should seem \_\_\_\_\_ in our eyes.
  4. Jesus’ point isn’t *only* to remind us that the log is in our own eye while the speck is in our brother’s eye. Jesus’ point is that *this being the case*, we \_\_\_\_\_ the speck in our brother’s eye, but \_\_\_\_\_ the log in our own eye!
    - a. Not only do we hold a higher standard for others and a lower standard for ourselves, but we are \_\_\_\_\_ to our greater sins while we \_\_\_\_\_ on our brother’s lesser sins!
    - b. Example of David (2 Samuel 12:1-7)
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_ do we *see* the *speck* that is in our brother’s eye, but **don’t notice** the **log** that is in our own eye?
- B. “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?”
  1. When a person with a log in his eye offers to help a person with a speck in his eye, he doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ it.

2. He must have some motive *other* than true \_\_\_\_\_ for his brother.
- C. “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”
- ✓ Until we have *honestly* confronted the *full extent* of our *own* sin, we cannot *possibly* help our brother with a *sincere* and *genuine* heart.

## **Conclusion**

- A. Whom have you judged?
1. Have you displayed your critical spirit in gossip disguised as \_\_\_\_\_?
  2. Have you displayed your judgmental attitude in slander disguised as \_\_\_\_\_?
- B. We do need to judge and exercise discernment, but only in *true* \_\_\_\_\_.
1. Galatians 6:1 – Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.
  2. We don’t just need a church where people are merciful and compassionate.
  3. We need a church where *true* mercy and *true* compassion are what \_\_\_\_\_ us to help a brother in his failings – which *always* seem \_\_\_\_\_ compared to our own.
- C. We need to remember that this teaching comes to us from Jesus, who will die on a cross *in our place* and for our \_\_\_\_\_ to “judge not”!
1. In the end, there is only \_\_\_\_\_ judgment seat.
  2. And we must \_\_\_\_\_ stand before that judgment seat.
  3. And we must *all* be \_\_\_\_\_ *together*.
  4. *Unless...*
    - a. John 3:18 – Whoever believes in the Son is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
    - b. John 5:24 – Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
    - c. Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are *in* Christ Jesus.
5. In light of these things: ***Judge not.***

## Teaching our Children

- Q. What does Jesus mean when He says that we should not judge other Christians?  
A. Jesus is telling us that we should not have a critical or judgmental attitude toward others (Criticize; focus on other peoples' faults)
- Q. When we judge others, what kind of standard are we expecting them to live up to? (How "good" are we expecting them to be, especially compared with us?)  
A. When we judge others, we show that we expect them to be better than we expect ourselves to be. (We hold them to a higher standard than we hold ourselves.)
- Q. Can we "get away" with holding other people to a higher standard than we hold ourselves? Why not?  
A. No. *God* will hold us to the same standard that we hold others. If we judge others for their failings, God will be less merciful and patient toward us.
- Q. When we judge our brother, we are acting like his sins are bigger than ours. But how does Jesus say that we should think?  
A. Jesus says that we should think of our *own* sins as very big (a log in our eye) and our brother's sins as very tiny (a speck in his eye).
- Q. Why do you think it's so easy to see the speck in our brother's eye when we don't even notice the log in our own eye (compare the example of David in 2 Samuel 12:1-7).  
A. Because we are so sinfully proud and arrogant!
- Q. What is wrong with trying to "help" our brother with his small sin when we have not confessed and "worked on" our own big sin?  
A. We cannot really be *concerned* for our brother when we are not noticing our *own* sin. (Talk about possible wrong motives for "helping" our brother.)
- Q. Instead of being critical and judgmental, what attitude should we have toward others?  
A. We should have a patient and merciful attitude toward others (ALWAYS).  
We should especially not judge people's motives.

Help your children to see Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:1-5 within the context of the Gospel (See Conclusion C.). Do this with great joy!!!