

THE RED LETTER LECTURES

NOTES

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Jesus' Teaching on Judging and Hypocrisy
Matthew 7:1-6

I. Judging

DO NOT JUDGE*, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. — Mt. 7:1-2

A. *Do not judge . . .*

1. An Imperative Command.
2. The word "judge" in the NT means to separate or discriminate one thing from another.
3. It means to form or give an opinion after separating the particulars of a case.
4. It refers here to forming and expressing a judgment or opinion as to any person or thing, more commonly unfavorable.²⁰
5. Then why the prohibition from Jesus in regard to judging — in this case of one another?
6. What about Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 5:12-13?

B. *or you too will be judged . . . the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

1. I call this a "Quid Pro Quo," from the Latin meaning "something for something, one thing for another." Now a legal term. See Lk. 6:37-38.
2. Jesus was not advocating blind acceptance of evil conduct or obvious error but encouraging grace to one another. Why? Because in most cases no one has all the facts. Think of an example.
3. Consider a case that goes before a judge before he can render a verdict or a jury can decide. What

Read Boice, pp. 224-34.

²⁰ Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament, p. 888.

1 Cor. 5:12-13: What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. Expel the wicked man from among you.

Lk. 6:37-38: Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

do they need to hear? Each side gets to present its case, so all the facts can be heard.

4. In our human relationships this is seldom the practice and that is God's concern.
See Rom. 2:1-4.
5. God is the only one who can judge with perfect justice because He is the only one who has all the facts. *See 1 Cor. 4:5:*
6. In whose hands would you rather be judged by, God or man? Why? *Rom. 14:4.*
7. We must not, however, presume on the absence of God's anger when we consistently do wrong.
See Psm. 103:8, 2:12.
8. God is the final Judge who issues our sentence.
See Heb. 10:30-31.

II. Hypocrisy

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? — Mt. 7:3-4

A. *Why do you look . . .*

1. This is a strong admonition by the Lord to take a long look at yourself before judging or criticizing another.
2. This context all has to do with our relationships with one another in the body of Christ.

B. *when all the time there is a plank . . .*

1. In other words, there is no one among us who is without fault, no matter how highly we may think of ourselves and our pristine actions.
See Rom. 12:3; 1 Cor. 10:12.

NOTES

Rom. 2:1-4: You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

1 Cor. 4:5: Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Rom. 14:4: Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Psm. 103:8: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Psm. 2:12: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Heb. 10:30-31: For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Rom. 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

1 Cor. 10:12: So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. — Mt. 7:5

A. *You hypocrite . . .*

1. A hypocrite was a actor who played many roles. Often both the good guy and the villain.
2. The term is used 18X in the NT and always in a negative way. See *Mk. 7:6*.

DO NOT GIVE* dogs what is sacred; **DO NOT THROW*** your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces. — Mt. 7:6

A. *Do not give dogs . . .*

1. An Imperative Command.
2. The term dogs refers to unbelievers or in this case the Gentiles around them. See *Mk. 7:27-28*; *Phil. 3:2* ; *Rev. 22:14-15*.

B. *do not throw your pearls to pigs . . .*

1. An Imperative Command.
2. Pigs, like dogs, were considered unclean animals to the Jews. They are used as a metaphors for those who have refused what they have already heard. In many cases it is futile and a waste of time to share with them the hope within you. See *Mt. 13:45-46*.
3. Always follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
4. Example.

III. Imperative Commands in this section of study.

A. **DO NOT JUDGE** others.

B **DO NOT GIVE** dogs what is sacred.

C **DO NOT THROW** your pearls to pigs.

NOTES

Mk. 7:6: He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Mk. 7:27-28: First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Phil. 3:2: Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

Rev. 22:14-15: Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Mt. 13:45-46: Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.