

Questions About Judging

Matthew 7:1-6 (text vs. 3-4)

This Scripture is one of the most used, and *misused* and *abused* verses in the Bible. It is a favorite verse of liberals, drunkards, drug addicts, fornicators and cultists. It is often taken out of context to justify themselves when they are confronted with some sin or fault in their life. Whenever you point out a person's false doctrine or sinful behavior, they say, "*Judge not!*"

I. The PROPRIETY in judging. Obviously Jesus is not condemning ALL judging (cf. vs. 6, 15-20).

- John 7:24 — *Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*
- Jesus commended Simon for rightly "judging." "*And he said unto him, Thou hast RIGHTLY judged*" (Luke 7:43).
- Luke 12:57—*Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?*
- 1 Cor. 2:15—*...he that is spiritual judgeth all things...*

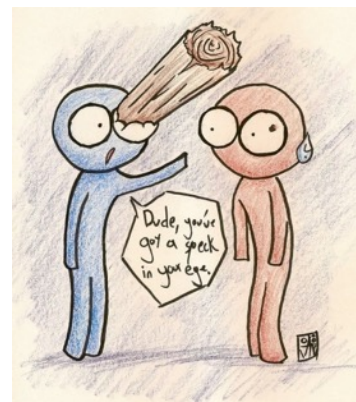
II. The PROHIBITING of judging.

- A. **C** — Hypercritical. Being a fault finder. Looking for the worst in someone instead of the best.
➡ Don't be a "mote/speck detective."
- B. . Judging a someone's actions or motives are sinful. You judge someone because you are *suspicious* of their intentions. Paul calls this "*Evil surmising.*" Surmise means "to suspect; to imagine without certain knowledge" (Webster).
- C. . Jumping to conclusions. Quick to judge before you have all the facts. "*He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him*" (Prov. 18:13)
- D. . Judging someone without a Scriptural basis. It is not that they are doing something that is specifically forbidden in the Bible, but they are doing something you personally don't think is right (Rom. 14:1-10, 13). Dress, music, worship, a TV program or movie.

- E. **Matthew 7:1-5**. Entering into judgment over matters that do not pertain to you. Dr. Ruckman says, “Don’t judge cases that are not in your courtroom.” Don’t be a busybody in other people’s affairs (1 Pet. 4:15).
- F. **Hypocrite** (context vs. 3-5). Jesus calls a person who judges in this manner a “*hypocrite*.”
1. The INVOLVEMENT in the judging—These are “brothers.”
 2. The IRRITANT in the eyes. Both have something in their eye that doesn’t belong there and needs to be removed.
 - **A mote**. The word “mote” is like the word “mite” (as in “the widow’s mite”). It is a tiny particle of something. In this case it is the equivalent of a speck of sawdust or a tiny splinter.
 - **A beam**. A beam is large piece of timber, used to support a roof or floor in a house (2 by 6). Could be a log.
 - These objects represent some fault or sin in the lives of these two brothers. One sin is very small, but the other is HUGE.

3. The IMAGERY of the judging (vs. 3-4).

- The question contains bit of sarcasm, which Jesus often used, when driving home a point. Try to visualize what Jesus is saying. Picture someone trying to remove a tiny speck from a person’s eye while he has a protruding log stuck in his own eye! It is ludicrous—ridiculous. Those are the elements of humor that make something laughable.



Jesus definitely had a “sense of humor.” He made some very funny statements (Mt. 15:14; 23:24, 26, 27; Luke 13:32 etc.). What a breath of comic relief ring in these comments from the Lord Jesus Christ. I wouldn’t be surprised if Peter laughed (or giggled) when Jesus said some of these things.

- Charles Wesley said, "Sour godliness is the devil's religion." A church that doesn't laugh is a sick church.

I remember on time while driving on Hwy. 16 to Tacoma I saw a bumper sticker that said, "Smile, God Loves you." I thought, "The person driving that car must be a Christian." As I passed the car I looked over at the driver. The woman driving looked like she was having a gall bladder attack! I thought to myself, "She needs to take that bumper sticker off her bumper and put it on her dashboard!"

III. The **PROCEDURE** in judging.

- Jesus first tells us what NOT to do, then what we ARE to do.
- A. Do not be HYPOCRITICAL (vs. 3-4). Jesus -
- A " " question and a " " question.
1. WHY (v. 3). The of the judging. Why be concerned about a *lesser* sin in your brother's life when you are unconcerned about a *greater* sin in your own life.
 - ➡ Beware of *maximizing* the sins of others while *minimizing* your own sins.
 - ➡ The Pharisees judged the disciples for not washing their hands, while they allowed a man to curse his parents (which was punishable by death in the O.T.).
 - ➡ In 2 Samuel 12 David is a classic example of how quick people are to pass judgment on other people's sin and fail to see the beam of sin in their own life. David is quick to judge the man who stole one ewe lamb, when David was guilty of adultery and murder.
 2. HOW (v. 4). The in the judging. How can a man see clearly if there is a log in his eye (v. 5). Sin obscures our spiritual perception and blinds us to our own faults.
 - ➡ How would you feel if went to an ophthalmologist to have a small particle removed from your eye, and he came at you with two-by-fours in his eyes?

➤ A brother will resist correction from a person who has bigger sins in his own life. They'd say, "You are you to judge?" *"Physician, heal thyself."*

B. Don't be HASTY (v. 5).

➤ Examine yourself first—Take care of your own problems before you try to help someone else with their problems. Don't go nitpickin' and straining at a gnat, when you've got sins as big as a camel in your own life.

ILLUS: A lady in an airport bought a book to read and a package of cookies to eat while she waited for her plane. After she had taken her seat in the waiting area she became engrossed in her book. Then she noticed the man one seat away from her was fumbling to open the package of cookies on the seat between them. She was shocked that a stranger would eat her cookies. So she reached over and took one of the cookies from the package and ate it. The man didn't say anything but soon reached over and took another cookie. Well, the woman wasn't going to let him eat them all, so she took another, too.

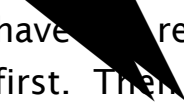
When they were down to the last cookie, the man reached over, broke the cookie in half, and got up and left. The lady couldn't believe the nerve of that man.

Once the woman boarded the plane she reached into her purse for a tissue. She suddenly realized she judged that man too quickly—for there in her purse was her still-unopened package of cookies.

C. Don't be HARMFUL (v. 5).

1. The procedure of getting a speck out of an eye is a very delicate operation. No organ is more sensitive than the eye. The moment something touches it, it closes up.

ILLUS: When I worked at Eastside Saw Company in Bellevue during the mid 1970's, I sharpened saw blades. In spite of wearing protective eye wear, I got a small metal particle in my eye. I could barely see it. I went to an ophthalmologist to



have remove it. He put some numbing solution in my eye first. Then he steadied my head by putting my chin on the chin rest of a large microscope. He looked through the lens to see the metal speck in my eye and gently used a small tweezer to take it out.

2. We should see to it that in all our judgment we are careful not to hurt the one we are seeking to correct. We should follow the guidelines in Galatians 6:1.

A I : Let's quit dwelling on the faults of others. Our church needs builders and workers—not a wrecking crew. Work on your own faults, then seek to help others in a spirit of meekness.