



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“How Not to Judge, and How to Judge” (Matthew 7:1-5)**

Date: **January 27, 2019**

“Judge not, that you be not judged.” This is one of the most often quoted verses in the Bible. It’s quoted by believers and unbelievers alike. Unfortunately, it is usually quoted out of context. People use this verse in an attempt to shame someone when they make a judgement call. Unbelievers use this verse against Christians to try to keep us from making moral judgements. But is this what Jesus is teaching in this verse? As Christians, are we forbidden from making judgment calls? In this week’s passage, we will learn what Jesus teaches about making judgments. We will consider the difference between making a judgment and being judgmental. Jesus forbids the latter, not the former. We will also be exhorted to deal with our own sin before we seek to help someone else deal with their sin. Our sin clouds our judgment and must be removed in order to see clearly so that we can help others.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:1-5 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Is it possible to live life without making judgment calls? Explain.
 - b. Lookup John 7:24. What does this verse teach us and what are the implications of this verse as we consider Matthew 7:1-5?
 - c. What does Jesus mean by the command “Judge not” in verse 1? What kind of judgment is he forbidding in this verse?
 - d. What is the motivation Jesus gives us not to judge?
 - e. In verse 2, Jesus warns us, “With the judgment you pronounce you will be judged.” Whose judgment are we to be concerned about? Why?
 - f. Explain the speck/log illustration that Jesus uses in verses 3 & 4.



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- g. Repetition implies importance. In verses 3-5, how many times does Jesus use the word “eye”? What are the different phrases he uses that relate to our seeing/observing? What is Jesus teaching us about our “sight”?
- h. What is the standard that we use to accurately identify logs in our own eyes and specks in our brother’s eyes? Why is this important to remember?
- i. How do we remove logs from our own eyes? How do we help others remove specks from their eyes?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why is Matthew 7:1 such a popular verse in our world today? Can you think of an example of someone quoting this verse out of context? Explain.
3. How might you respond to someone who says that Christians are not to judge others? How would you respond to someone complaining that Christians are too judgmental?
4. What is the difference between making a judgment call in someone’s life and having an attitude of judgmentalism? How can we guard against becoming judgemental and overly critical of things?
5. How can we identify logs in our own eyes? Once we’ve identified a log in our own eye, how can we remove it?
6. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What does this passage teach us about how we should seek to take the speck out of our brother’s eye?

Accountability Question

Do you have “a log” in your own eye that needs to be removed? What is it and how will you remove it?