

Matthew 7:1-6: Making Right Judgments

Matthew 7:1-5 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ²For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵You 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.

We begin with this: If I am a judgmental person, I will begin today to seek God’s grace to overcome it and to take my own thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ!

Jesus did not say, “Do not make judgments.” He said, “Do not judge.” So what does it mean to judge?

To judge is to determine the standards of right and wrong for someone else when you have no business doing so.

There is always an element of hypocrisy in judging. The sawdust in my brother’s eye was made from the tree in mine!

I wouldn’t even have recognized the sin in my brother if I did not have an even bigger problem with it than he does!

“There is no getting away from the penetration of Jesus. If I see the mote in your eye, it means I have a beam in my own. Every wrong thing that I see in you, God locates in me. Every time I judge, I condemn myself (see Romans 2:17-20). Stop having a measuring rod for other people. —Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*

So many people never graduate from the kindergarten judgmentalism known as a critical spirit.

A Critical Spirit: claiming “gift of discernment” while lacking self-awareness, having opinions about everything, rashness, dogmatism, degrading others, gossip/slander, point out problems without contributing to solutions, no relational integrity, easily offended, moping when others do not embrace their judgments

John 7:24 ²⁴Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

“Jesus says regarding judging — *Don’t*. The average Christian is the most penetratingly critical individual. Criticism is a part of the ordinary faculty of man; but in the spiritual domain nothing is accomplished by criticism... It is impossible to enter into communion with God when you are in a critical temper; it makes you hard and vindictive and cruel, and leaves you with the flattering unction that you are a superior person. Jesus says, as a disciple cultivate the uncritical temper. It is not done once and for all. Beware of anything that puts you in the superior person’s place.

There is always one fact more in every man’s case about which we know nothing. The first thing God does is to give us a spiritual spring-cleaning; there is no possibility of pride left in a man after that. I have never met the man I could despair of after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God.” -Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*

Once hypocritical judgmentalism is dealt with in us (and not before), God will begin to teach us His righteous judgments to sharpen our discernment. There is a great need for this!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

If we are judging people superficially, we hinder our own ability to cultivate the discernment we so desperately need.

When we have stopped judging, righteous judgments will save us from trouble and help us to lead others to the truth.

Jesus always knew when a person was sincere or when they were laying a trap for Him. He knew even their thoughts!

Psalm 119:66 ⁶⁶ Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments.

Did God answer that prayer?

2 Samuel 14:19-20 ¹⁹ So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman replied, "As your soul lives, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. Indeed, it was your servant Joab who commanded me, and it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant; ²⁰ in order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth."

Let today be the day that a critical spirit begins to die out in you so that holy wisdom and discernment can grow in us!