



You Judge Me; You Judge Me Not

Matthew 7:1-5

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- “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

You Judge Me; You Judge Me Not

- Did you know that Matthew 7:1 is quickly replacing John 3:16 as the most frequently memorized and quoted verse in the Bible?
- For the brother who appoints himself as the guardian of others' virtue
- For the brother who objects to efforts to correct and restore him - "Who are you to judge me!?"

You Judge Me; You Judge Me Not

- The answer to both sides of this question:
 - 1John 4:7 - “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

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- If I love my brother...
 - Why do I assume the worst intentions in him?
 - Why do I put the worst possible spin on his words and actions?
 - Why do I assume people are judging me?
 - Why does my fear of what others may see in me keep me from doing or saying things harmless in themselves?

You Judge Me; You Judge Me Not

- Where were you before you succeeded? Who were you before you changed your life?
- Everyone needs a:
 - Trigger
 - Driving force
 - Maintenance structure in order to succeed

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- These will often vary widely with individuals.
 - What works for you may not work for me and vice versa.
 - You may learn and change at a different pace than me.

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- Illustration: Dieters...
 - Trigger - struck to the core by appearance, doctor gave bad health news, peer pressure
 - Driving force - fear, worthy goal, etc.
 - Maintenance structure - dieting with a friend, logging it, daily measuring progress, etc.

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- Each person must find the mechanism that will get them moving, keep them moving, and help them maintain the pace
- This will work with study, service, spiritual mindedness; find the trigger, accept the motivation, and look for a maintenance mechanism that works for you
- What would you now say to you then? How would treat and speak to yourself before you succeeded?

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- You have a responsibility to the weak, and judging them is not it.
 - 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

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- You have a responsibility to the weak, and judging them is not it.
 - Eph. 4:2 - “With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love”
 - Col. 3:12 - “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering”

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- Now, I am done talking to the brother accused of judging others.
- The rest of this lesson is for the brother who repeatedly chants: “Stop judging me!”

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- Weaker brethren have a tendency to fall into patterns of behavior that not only hinders their growth, in some cases can reverse it
 - Habits that hinder participation in things that will lead to growth, stability, and strength
 - Habits that may be harmless in themselves, but the weak are comfortable with them and unwilling to change

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- Fear of being judged; frequently based on a failure to distinguish between judging and salvaging
- Unwilling to trust others to care
- Fear of complete knowledge of self
 - Listening to the brother who is trying to save him forces him to admit he needs saved; makes many angry.
 - Do you really want him to feel indifferent toward you?
 - If you reject his help, you may not vilify him later when you have made a complete mess of your life

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- The word “judge” in English means “to pronounce judgment; to express strong disapproval or harsh criticism.” It refers to “act the part of a judge; or to pass judgment on the words and deeds of another.”
- Judge in scripture is “krino” meaning: “to distinguish, decide mentally or judicially, to try, condemn, punish; avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to or sue at the law, ordain, call in question, sentence, think” (Strong's).
- The meaning is broader and contextual

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- Jesus said: “Judge not.” Does this mean that all judgment is wrong?
 - 1Cor. 5:3-5, 12-13 - “For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus... 12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? 13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore put away from yourselves the evil person.”

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- Jesus said: “Judge not.” Does this mean that all judgment is wrong?
 - Matt. 7:6, 15-20 - “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces... 15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- Jesus said: “Judge not.” Does this mean that all judgment is wrong?
 - 1John 4:1-3 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God...”
 - John 7:24 - “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- Jesus said: “Judge not.” Does this mean that all judgment is wrong?
 - Matt. 18:15-17 - “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.”

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- The difference is in the motive and purpose
 - One is faultfinding, condemning, and picky
 - The other allows the words and actions of others define the direction of their lives; because they care for them and their souls, they intervene

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- The person who appoints himself as the judge of others, will himself face judgment someday. God will use the same level of harshness on him that the man used on others
 - Gal. 6:7 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- The weak want the brother who cares about him to say nothing because:
 - “You don’t know all the facts”
 - “We all sin”
 - “You don’t know my heart”
 - “You’re not God; I want God to judge me”
 - “You’re going to face God in judgment”
- These are not Biblical reasons for the strong brother to avoid helping you.

Do Not Misuse Matthew 7:1!

- It is not wrong to confront a person with his sin. It is wrong if one doesn't.
 - Lev. 19:17 - “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.”
 - Prov. 27:5-6 - “Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”
 - Luke 17:3 - “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”

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- If you love your brother, you will confront him when he is wrong. If you don't care about him you will not.
- The next time a brother who loves you takes a risk and talks to you about a hurtful pattern of behavior you've fallen into, say "Thank you."
- Don't pick apart his words or manners or expression. See it for what it is; someone loves you and cares for your wellbeing.
- If you constantly judge others for correcting you, sooner or later you will take offense, depart the faith, blame everyone for judging you, and then go to hell later.

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- “One of the bigger mistakes of our time, I suppose, was preaching the demonization of all judgment without teaching how to judge righteously. We now live in an age where everyone is unable to bear even good judgment when it passes by. Yet everyone has a viral opinion about everything and everyone else, but little skill in good judgment in its expression” (Crissjami).

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- “The wise do not buy into other people’s perceptions of who they are and what they are capable of. Instead, they bypass a person’s public persona and see who they are in their highest expression. When you see actions taken with integrity, instead of words only, you will then know a soul’s worth” (Shannon Alder).