

Sermon Discussion

12 July 2020

Read Matthew 7:1-6 together.

Dig Deeper

Remember that this passage fits into the Sermon on the Mount. The Pharisees were judging Christ's teaching and finding Him to be inadequate. He was not offering the kind of kingdom they anticipated or asking for the kind of righteousness they were exhibiting. So, they rejected Him. Jesus therefore warned them against hypocritical judging.

1. If our contemporary society has a favourite Bible verse, Matthew 7:1 is probably it. Even people who otherwise may know little that the Bible says are found quoting this verse to justify tolerance about something. How would you respond to someone who says that Jesus told us to be tolerant? How would try to show someone that the Bible does not say we should never judge?
2. If we read only Matthew 7:1, we may get the wrong message. However, if we read on through a more complete picture emerges. How do the next verses (Matthew 7:2-6) clarify what Jesus meant in verse 1? *(For even more context, refer to these passages: Luke 6:37, John 7:24, Romans 2:1-3 and James 4:11-12. What do these add to our understanding about judging others?)*
3. The word for "judge" in Matthew 7:1 means to decide, to call into question, to determine a standard. How could these definitions help you think through the idea of tolerance that represents so much of today's worldview?
4. 1 Corinthians 5:12 says to not judge those who are NOT part of the church, what does the context of 1 Corinthians 5:10-13 say about dealing with people who are in the church? (See also Matt. 18:15-17.)

Application & Prayer

- This series is designed to encourage us to spend time reading the Bible. How has this sermon encouraged you to spend more time in the Bible? What one thing can you do differently this week?
- Hypocrisy is when we focus on the sins of others but fail to examine our own life for sinful actions or attitudes. How seriously should we take this issue of hypocrisy? Discuss some ways to do healthy self-examination.
- Share some of ideas for studying Scripture on your own. What do you do to put the verse in context, how do you find other relevant passages to help you interpret a difficult verse, how do you apply what you have learned, etc.? Do you journal?