

Morning Sermon July 26, 2020

“Judge Not!” Matthew 7:1-5

If someone were to ask me, what is the most misunderstood, misapplied, misquoted verse in the Bible? I would answer, Matthew 7:1 - ⁷ “Judge not, that you be not judged.

I have heard non-believers, quote this to believers in defense of their sin!

I. “Judge not” is not a condemnation of discernment –

1. This is clearly seen by going just one verse beyond our text for this morning -

⁶ “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. Matthew 7:6 (NKJV)

- A. Jesus is not talking about literal “dogs” and “swine” in verse :6, no he is talking about people. He is talking about people who reject Him and His gospel – “loudly” “rudely” ... laughing at and mocking what is serious and holy, Jesus is saying don’t waste your time and effort trying hard to convert such people...
- B. In order to “judge” who is a “dog” or “swine” you would have to use a bit of judgment / discernment ...

2. Jesus is not talking about discerning or judging acts or actions that are clearly sinful –

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

Certain things are clearly WRONG, the Bible tells us –

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Exodus 20:13–16 (NKJV)

If someone handed you a gun and said, “go murder your next door neighbors” judging that to be evil and not doing it, is keeping not breaking God’s commands.

II. “Judge not” is not meant to condemn the office of judge, but principles here apply to such judges -

⁷ “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. Matthew 7:1–5 (NKJV)

1. We have an entire book of the Bible, called “Judges” Jesus is not condemning the office.

A. God is a judge –

¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NKJV)

B. Jesus Himself will judge –

²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ³⁰ I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. John 5:26–30 (NKJV)

2. This verse should be applied by judges just like James 3:1 might be applied by teachers –

³ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. James 3:1 (NKJV)

A. Though some are called to be “teachers” and that for a good purpose –

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

B. The call is one people should not take lightly, the same applies to pastors and maybe especially judges –

- They will be judged as they do judge – Matthew 7:2

- They must be first concerned that they are themselves “not guilty”

3. None of us, except Jesus Christ, is sinless or perfect, therefore a judge must be humble –

⁹The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

Psalm 25:9 (NKJV)

III. “Judge not” also does not condemn the gentle confrontation of sin –

⁶Brethren, 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. Galatians 6:1 (NKJV)

IV. Nor does “Judge not” condemn a preacher’s bold challenge of sin –

⁷Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Luke 3:7 (NKJV)

I bring all this up because in a politically correct culture sin is not allow to be judged at all and righteous judgment even discerning is condemned!

How is a preacher’s challenge different?

V. What does “judge not” mean for us? How is it to be applied?

1. It is a warning against a judgmental attitude -

7 “Judge not, that you be not judged.

A. Don’t make judging a habit ... Don’t be confident about it, beware if you ever start feeling yourself skillful or comfortable with confronting people about their sin!

B. Realized you will be judged in the way you judge others, and we tend to be harsher in our judgment of others / or more UNDERSTANDING and sympathetic towards ourselves –

²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Matthew 7:2-4

C. This means we need to examine ourselves FIRST –

⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. Matthew 7:5 (NKJV)

- Paul speaks to the Corinthians this way... they were comparing him (unfavorably) to other preachers, even to false apostles ... they fashioned themselves critics more than learners ... and they were falling for what they should not while not appreciating what they had -

¹³For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

¹⁴And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:13–14 (NKJV)

- Paul tells the what they should do -

⁵Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. ⁶But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV)

Deal with your own sin and failing first ... you will then see clearly to help others!

4. Self-examination, self- judging should be a regular thing for all of us, how do we do it –

A. Look often in the mirror of God’s Word –

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:22–25 (NKJV)

B. Ask God to help you with self-judgment –

¹² Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Psalm 19:12 (NKJV)

1. Point is we do not understand, meaning comprehend our own sin ... How can we judge another?

2. God helps us understand – James 1:22-25

3. God cleanses us – 1 John 1:9

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