

Out Of Context

Week 1: "Judge Jesus' Way"

Weekly Summary: Some have said that Jesus' words about judging are the most famous in modern America, surpassing even John 3:16. Jesus did indeed say, "Judge not!" but make sure to read the context. Jesus was not against being judgmental. Yet he was very against the hypocrisy of many judgmental people who overlooked their own flaws in a zealous attempt to point out the flaws of others. His words, clearly understood, encourage us to look in the mirror first and judge others in love afterwards.

◆ Matthew 7:1a - "Do not judge,..."

◆ All people spend all day being judgmental.

◆ Matthew 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Matthew 7:3-4 - "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"

◆ Why are Christians so quick to judge?

1. We know their sin is serious.
2. We think our sin is different.

◆ Matthew 7:5 - "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

◆ Matthew 7:6 - "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

◆ In context, Jesus said, “Do not judge...yet!”

◆ How?

1. **Grow** (the Bible)
2. **Gather** (church)
3. **Group** (other Christians)

Points to Ponder

1. Some people, like the Pharisees, are very quick to judge the behavior of fellow Christians. Others, like the Corinthians (refer to 1 Corinthians 5), never judge anyone’s behavior. Which temptation is greater for you? Why do you suppose you judge so quickly or not at all?
2. Think of a time that someone confronted you for your behavior. Did they approach you in the way Jesus describes in Matthew 7? What could have made the conversation more effective?
3. Evaluate: The key to judging Jesus’ way is to realize that God has had mercy on you, a sinner.

Homework For Next Week: Matthew 18:15-20

*“Some people think God does not like to be troubled
with our constant coming and asking.
The way to trouble God is not to come at all.”
~ D.L. Moody*