

Introduction:

- *“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.” (Matthew 7:1–6, NLT)*
- What is Jesus saying in this passage? I believe the whole point of this section of scripture again takes us back to Matthew 5:20, “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees you will in no way enter the Kingdom of heaven.”
 - It was not a scripture to arm sinners so they could attack Christians.
 - It was a scripture to arm Christians with, so that they do not attack sinners.

I. Do Not Judge

- A. The word judge: Gr. kino – is used for technical legal decisions, but more so for forming judgments and reaching conclusions. The word by itself is not negative but Jesus makes it clear from verse 2 and 3 that if used wrongly is very negative. When judging is critical of others and focused on peoples failings...this sort of thing is not welcome. That is what Jesus is saying. Therefore, Jesus says, “Do not judge.”
- B. How did the Pharisees judge? If your righteousness is to surpass the religious leaders what has to change? Let’s look at how the Pharisee’s judged.
 1. The Pharisees were critical. They had a critical, fault finding spirit that compared others to themselves. They saw themselves as better than others.
 2. The Pharisees were judgmental. They were quick to pass judgment. They were both judge and jury in one.
 3. The Pharisees were arrogant in their ‘self righteousness’.
 4. IE. Luke 7:39 The dinner at Simon the Pharisees house and the sinful woman. “When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, *“If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”*” (Luke 7:39, NLT) They were critical of the woman (sinner). They were critical of Jesus (not a prophet). They were critical of the kind of sinner she was, (that kind of woman).
- C. Much of what we label ‘judging’ is actually accusation.
 1. We know, because we have learned that accusations always separate and divide. Satan is called the accuser of the brethren Rev. 12:10.
 2. Accusation is basically the blaming of someone for something wrong or illegal. It is calling them guilty for the purpose of shaming.
- D. You will judged by same standard of measure.

1. Notice that self-righteous judgment has a boomerang: "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." In other words: "Look, if you start throwing out this critical spirit on other people, it'll come back."
2. "People living in glass houses should not throw stones." In other words get ready because what you are throwing out is coming back and you better be ready to taste your own medicine.
3. We'll receive the same kind of treatment that we dish out. If we judge others harshly and jump to the worst conclusions about others, we can be certain that we'll be treated in the same way John 8:7 "*Who ever is without sin can throw the first stone.*" Jesus used the same measure back to the 'stoners.'
 - a) They found her guilty and were ready to sentence.
 - b) They were found guilty and decided not to sentence.
4. The point, it is better not to judge, be critical, arrogant or all three.

II. The Blind Carpenter

- A. Point number one is now supported by a short parable. This parable is second person singular as is now applied individually. The speck verses the plank.
 1. "*And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.*" Mt 7:3-ff.
 2. Isn't it interesting that the carpenter would choose this one. Anyone who has ever did any kind of carpentry work has gotten the proverbial speck in his eye. When you get a speck in your eye you want someone to take it out. But the last thing you want is someone with a 2x4 stuck in their head to remove your speck.
 3. It's not wrong to notice another persons failing or even try to help them. What doesn't work is if you also have an overtly obvious thing in your life while trying to help another.
- B. Hypocrite! The actor. Someone appearing to be something or someone that they are not.
 1. The hypocrite is criticized for failing to apply the same standards to himself that he applies to the others.
 2. IE. David and Nathan. 2 Sam 12:1-7. "David you are the man!"
 3. Other people and especially God will always see our hypocrisy.
 4. The word 'friend' NLT is actually adelphos/brother – fellow disciple. The point of Matthew in using the word is to demonstrate once again Jesus is concerned about good relationships within the community of believers.
 5. Here is how another person defined hypocrite: "I am firm. You are obstinate. He's pig-headed... I have reconsidered. You have changed your mind. He's gone back on his word."

- C. Jesus is graciously warning us that before tampering with other peoples lives we have to clean up our own. I don't think that the plank in our eyes is necessarily a worse sin. I think he's talking about the sin of self-righteousness, appointing ourselves as the official speck inspectors of the brotherhood.
1. When I spend my time pointing my finger at your sin, my attention is distracted from my own sins, and that's the real danger of judging.
 2. We're all sinners, and we're to work together as a family to overcome our sins. But ultimately, the only sins over which I have control are my own, and those are the ones that should command my greatest attention.
 3. Jesus did not tell us to stay out of others people's business. He said to deal with your own plank/issues first then you will be able to see to help your bother. *"Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."* (Galatians 6:1, NLT)

III. Precious Pearls

- A. *"Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you."*
1. First Jesus says, "Don't judge, don't condemn." Then, in the same breath, he says, "Make certain judgments concerning people and behavior."
 2. How can these two positions be reconciled? The two positions actually complement and limit each other perfectly. In the first statement, Jesus condemns the critical, holier-than-thou, jumping to conclusions sort of judgment that the Pharisees were known for.
 3. In the second statement, Jesus acknowledges the need for making decisions concerning people and behavior that is detrimental to our Christian lives. Verse 6 stands as a safeguard against an extreme interpretation of verses 1-5. It's not the case that Jesus condemns all judging. In fact, he demands that we make some judgment.
 - a) In John 7:24, Jesus said, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."
 - b) In I John 4:1, John tells us not to believe every preacher that comes along, but "test the spirits, whether they are of God."
 - c) In I Corinthians 5:11, Paul tells us not to associate with a brother who is "a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner." That demands that we make a judgment of some sort.

Conclusion:

- So what is the message of our passage?
 - Don't judge with self righteous, critical, judgmental attitude.
 - Jesus is after my heart to shine brighter than that of the Pharisees.
 - Always look at your own heart first before looking at the sins of others.
- For people who are not ready to change, don't try to help them to soon...they will just attack you