

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: "To Judge or Not to Judge"

INTRODUCTION

Matt 7:1

¹"Do not judge, or you too will be judged." Some people have called this quotation of Jesus the most misinterpreted, most misquoted, and most misapplied verse in the Bible. People have used it to justify all kinds of behavior. Yet the attitude and actions this verse really is focused on is rarely addressed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been on the receiving end of constant criticism? Perhaps it was a bully at school or a boss at work? Or an annoying relative? Maybe your own mother or father? Whatever you did was never good enough. How did it make you feel? Did you in turn take out on someone else?

2. Read Matt. 7:1. Taken out of context, the verse seems to say that all judgment is wrong. However, look at other parts of the Sermon on the Mount like Matt. 7:6 and 7:15. Is that interpretation correct?

3. Read Matt. 7:2-5. Verse 5b indicates we can help a brother or sister with their problem. But what needs to happen first?

4. In v. 5 Jesus calls judgmental people "hypocrites". Why?

GOING DEEPER

Rom 14:10-13

¹⁰You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" ¹²So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. ¹³Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.
(NIV)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Who have you been most critical of recently? Have you used God's word as the standard? Have you examined yourself first? Have you only judged what you can clearly see or have you based your judgment on what you heard or think?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

John 7:24

²⁴Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." (NIV)