

To Judge or Not to Judge--Part One

John Cole / General

The Journey, Becoming a Disciple / Judging / Matthew 7:1–23

Judging people is a greater part of our life than we like to admit. Is it wrong? Can you live without judging people? Is there a correct way to judge? Matthew 7 gives us insights from Jesus into these questions.

› INTRO

Judging people is a greater part of our life than we like to admit.

- Making purchases
- Voting
- Childrearing
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Children's sports teams
- Helping the needy
- Promoting employees
- Trusting leaders
- Investing money
- Paying a neighbor kid to mow a lawn
- Hiring a contractor
- Making friends
- Bible studies and discipleship with church members
- Medical and health providers

Is it wrong?

Can you live without judging people?

Is there a correct way to judge?

Because God is good, the absence of God is bad, and because there is bad, we need judgement.

To judge or not to judge, that's not the question.

κρίνω: judge, to pass judgement on, consider, separate

The question is do we judge rightly.

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Unfairly Judged

We sometimes criticize others unfairly. We don't know all their circumstances, nor their motives. Only God, who is aware of all the facts, is able to judge people righteously.

John Wesley told of a man he had little respect for because he considered him to be miserly and covetous. One day when this person contributed only a small gift to a worthy charity, Wesley openly criticized him.

After the incident, the man went to Wesley privately and told him he had been living on parsnips and water for several weeks. He explained that before his conversion, he had run up many bills. Now, by skimping on everything and buying nothing for himself he was paying off his creditors one by one. "Christ has made me an honest man," he said, "and so with all these debts to pay, I can give only a few offerings above my tithe. I must settle up with my worldly neighbors and show them what the grace of God can do in the heart of a man who was once dishonest."

Wesley then apologized to the man and asked his forgiveness.

Our Daily Bread, July 20, 1992

This very passage of Scripture which many use to incorrectly condemn the act of judging people, actually teaches to judge others and how to do it.

Notice that immediately after the strong imperative not to judge, Jesus tells us (1) to judge after we have taken the beam out of our own eye, and then (2) to judge some as unworthy of holy things and “pearls” you have to offer.

› TRANS

Matthew 7 gives us insights from Jesus into how to judge.

I find in this chapter seven principles to help us properly exercise judgement with others.

Today, we will just look at three of them.

› PRINCIPLES FOR JUDGING OTHERS

#1 Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge You, vs. 1-2, 12

Matthew 7:1-2 KJV 1900

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 7:12 KJV 1900

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Judging

It was F.B. Meyer, I believe, who once said that when we see a brother or sister in sin, there are two things we do not know: First, we do not know how hard he or she tried not to sin. And second, we do not know the power of the forces that assailed him or her. We also do not know what we would have done in the same circumstances.

We must be careful with judgement; it is far too powerful to treat casually.

› #1 Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge You, and . . .

#2 Judge Yourself First, vs. 3-5

Matthew 7:3-5 KJV 1900

³ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

⁴ Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

⁵ Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

| 10,000 Sermon Illustrations Two sides to a story - Swift to Judge

| Two sides to a story - Swift to Judge

| "The people upstairs are very annoying," complained the tenant. "Last night they stomped and banged on the floor until midnight."

| "Did they wake you?" asked the landlord.

| “No,” explained the tenant. “Luckily, I was up playing my drums.”

It is surprising how much can be cleared up in life by judging yourself first.

- › #1 Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge You, vs. 1-2, 12
- › #2 Judge Yourself First, vs. 3-5

#3 Judge for the Sake of Good, vs. 6

Matthew 7:6 KJV 1900

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Judge for the sake of good, not for the sake of judging.

It is not enough to judge; we must lead to something better as well.

| Consider the Book of Judges vs. Joshua:

10,000 Sermon Illustrations The Book of Judges Vs. the Book of Joshua

The Book of Judges Vs. the Book of Joshua

Joshua

Judges

Victory

Defeat

Freedom

Servitude

Faith

Unbelief

Progress

Declension
Spiritual vision
Earthly emphasis
Fidelity to the Lord
Apostasy from the Lord
Joy
Sorrow
Strength
Weakness
Sense of unity
Declension, anarchy
Sin judged
Sin lightly regarded

The New Unger's Bible Handbook, Merrill F. Unger, Revised by Gary N. Larson, Moody Press, Chicago, 1984, p. 129

› REVIEW

#1 Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge You, vs. 1-2, 12

#2 Judge Yourself First, vs. 3-5

#3 Judge for the Sake of Good, vs. 6

› CONCLUSION

Judging people is a daily reality for us.

The question is not whether we do it; the question is do we do it rightly.

1 Corinthians 6:1-7 KJV 1900

¹ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not

before the saints?

² Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

³ Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

⁴ If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

⁵ I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

⁶ But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

⁷ Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather *suffer yourselves to be defrauded*?

› INVITATION

Exercising truly righteous judgment begins by receiving the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Receiving God's grace through Jesus comes with a belief and agreement of God's just judgement for our sin.

Agreeing with God's judgement and believing on Him for His grace enables us to judge with the help of the Holy Spirit, God's Word, and experienced forgiveness.

Believe on Jesus for salvation today.

Learn God's judgement.

Judge others rightly.

To judge or not to judge, that's not the question.