

Stop Judging . . . and Start Loving

Matthew 7:1-12

Pastor Joe Whalen

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

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Sermon on the Mount . . . All about true holiness before God . . . first part . . . beatitudes . . .

Second . . . obeying the Law and Christ . . .

Third . . . not doing our righteousness in order to get the applause and respect of other humans . . . **Mat 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.**

Next, Jesus moves His message to loving money and worrying . . .

In short, His whole message is about love Him . . . and following Him . . . and obeying Him . . . that is, it's about being right with God . . .

and the danger there is, we look at someone who has a weakness, and we are quick to say, "Oh, well at least I'm not that . . ." "I'm more right w/ God than that person, because I don't have that problem in my life . . ."

Problem: we are sinning . . .

We look down on others . . . we get judgmental . . . we start gossiping about others . . .

Jesus is going after that this morning . . . please listen . . . God wants that judgmental, gossipy, proud attitude to stop . . . and He wants it replaced with something so very much better . . .

READ 7:1-2

I. Stop Judging – vv. 1-6

A. Definition: an attitude of criticism, of being judgmental

1. What He does not mean – that we be unwise and lacking discernment
 - a. Matthew 7:6, 15; 1 Cor. 5:5; Philippians 3:2; Galatians 5:12; 1 John 4:1; Matthew 18:15
 - b. The important thing is our attitude
 - c. *John 7:24*
 - d. Romans 14:10-
2. What He does mean – we stop being critical of others
 - a. Don't adopt a critical spirit
 - b. Don't adopt a condemning attitude

B. Because

1. We are acting like God
 - a. **Joh 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**
 - b. **Psa 50:3-6** Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. **(4)** He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. **(5)** Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. **(6)** And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God *is*

- judge himself. Selah.
- c. **Ecc 12:14** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.
2. We think we are better than others
 - a. **illustration: Luke 18 – two men praying . . .
 - b. **Luk 18:9** And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:
 - c. **Luk 18:10** Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.
 - d. **Luk 18:11** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.
 - e. **Luk 18:12** I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.
 - f. **Luk 18:13** And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.
 - g. **Luk 18:14** I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified** rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
 3. We are blinded to our own faults
 - a. Speck = piece of sawdust . .
 - b. Log = plank, log, beam . . .
- C. A Word of Warning – We can't treat everybody the

same way

1. The Good News of the Gospel is great wealth
 2. Not everyone is going to receive the truth of the Gospel
 3. In fact, some will get angry with you over the Gospel
 4. Even then, we have no right to be nasty or vindictive
 5. Even then, we must continue our witnessing
- II. And Start Loving – vv. 7-12
 - A. Because that is what God does – vv. 7-11
 1. He gives to those who ask
 2. He responds those who seek
 3. He answers those who knock
 4. That is – God's love is demonstrated by His actions
 - B. Because that is what God's Word demands – v. 12
- So . . .
1. We must choose either judging or loving . . . we cannot do both
 2. Your choice will be displayed in our actions and attitudes
 3. What do your actions and attitudes say about you?

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Jesus says it will be better for you to stand up and love than to sit, sour, soak, and judge . . .