

**Matthew 7:1-6**

*Meeting Jesus in Matthew: Judgmentalism*

Jonathan M. Romig

CornerstoneWestford.com

Introduction: **(Slide #1)**

1. Sometimes I have a judgmental attitude, so it always helps to get on Facebook.
2. Many years ago I saw a fellow believer post an article I disagreed with.
3. This article promoted something I believed the Bible says is wrong.
4. So in order to maintain peace and harmony I posted on his wall about it.
5. And he replied with today's text, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."
6. Is it wrong to judge what others say and think?
7. Is it wrong to determine if someone is right or wrong?
8. Jesus tells us how to make good judgements in Matthew 7:1-6. **(Slide #2)**

I. Jesus warns us not to judge others unfairly. **(Read v. 1-2)**

A. The Bible teaches us judging others can be bad or good.

1. The word judge is primarily a legal word for guilt or innocence (punishment).
2. The Bible tells us God is the perfect judge and at the end he'll judge everyone. **(Slide #3)**

**Ecclesiastes 12:14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (All Scripture is NIV)

3. It's wrong to sit on God's judgement seat—like a raised Judge's bench (Rom 14:10, 1 Cor 4:5).
4. It's wrong to judge others by speaking lies or slandering them (James 4:11-12).
5. However, it's right to help others see God's impending judgement.
6. It's right to help someone repent of their sins and receive forgiveness by God. **(Slide #4)**

**Galatians 6:1** Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.

7. In Mathew 7:15-20 Jesus teaches how to distinguish between "true and false prophets" (judging).
8. In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus teaches his followers how to heal broken relationships (reconcile).
9. In Galatians 6 and in Matthew 18 it speaks of "brothers and sisters"—these are fellow believers.
10. The Bible teaches us judging others can be bad or good. **(Slide #5)**

B. Jesus warns us not to judge others unfairly.

1. There were different types of measuring devices: 10-foot reed, measuring jar, scales.
2. Jesus is not pointing out a specific type, but if they're accurate: length, fullness, weight.
3. Is the way we look at others and examine their lives fair? (golden rule)
4. We make value-judgements about people based on their cars, clothes, jobs, Facebook pics.
5. Business professionals say it only takes seven seconds to make a first impression.
6. We should judge others the way we'd like God to judge us (divine passive: "you will be judged").
7. We don't judge others harshly because we're all guilty before God (grace = undeserved gift).

(We judge others fairly by judging them graciously.)

- C. When I was in middle-school my youth group leader judged me.
1. After we played sports and did the study he made me stay (speaking out, passing ball long).
  2. He said, “Jonathan, you’re cocky”—I was more concerned with being cool than kind.
  3. He didn’t say this in a mean way or hurtful way, but speaking it truthfully.
  4. He flavored it with grace when he followed-up to let me know I’d improved.

(Jesus wants us to judge others graciously.)

(In order to do this, we need to look at our own reflection first.) **(Slide #6)**

## II. Jesus calls us to examine ourselves honestly before we examine others. **(Read v. 3-5)**

- A. We examine ourselves first because we’re blind to our own faults.
1. The Greek word for “eye” (6x) is “ophthalmos” which is like our word “ophthalmologist”.
  2. An Ophthalmologist is a doctor who is highly trained to do eye surgery, research, eye-care, etc.
  3. We are blind eye surgeons when we do “Christian consulting” without dealing with our own sins.
  4. Jesus was a carpenter before becoming a Rabbi, so he knows about specks of sawdust.
  5. Imagine someone with a plank or log in their own eye trying to help Jesus remove his sawdust.
  6. The “plank” was probably a large beam used in building walls or roofs for houses. (hold man)
  7. Our planks blind us—sin thrives in blindspots (reputations, relationships, hobbies, careers).
  8. In Luke 18:35-43 Jesus is traveling to Jericho and he walks by a blindman.
  9. He cries, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!... What do you want?... Recover my sight.”
  10. We can pray that Jesus will heal us from our blindspots so we can honestly self examine.

(We examine ourselves first because we’re blind to our own faults.)

- B. We examine ourselves honestly because we want to represent Jesus well.
1. Jesus says those who like dealing with other’s problems more than their own are “hypocrites.”
  2. A “hypocrite” is someone who pretends, who acts... who hides behind a mask, an actor.
  3. Jesus usually calls out the Pharisees (hypocrite) but here he’s referring to his disciples (only one).
  4. Jesus doesn’t want his followers to say they’re saved by grace but then not act with grace.
  5. We want to go above and beyond to show grace to fellow believers in Christ.
  6. If we can’t love each other well, how can we care for non-Christians?
- C. Joseph Grimaldi is London’s most famous clown and he practically invented modern clowning.
1. He made people laugh through pantomime (slap-stick antics, silly humor, funny faces).
  2. He was so good at it’s said a doctor once told a depressed patient to go see Grimaldi.
  3. But the patient said, “I’m sorry, doctor, but with me that will not work. You see, I am Grimaldi.”
  4. I’m not sure how true that story is but I do know Grimaldi was overwhelmed by sadness and hurt.
  5. In order to appear kind and loving to those outside, grace has to start right here inside the church.
  6. We want our outward acts to truly reflect the grace we’ve experienced inside this community.
  7. When people look at us, we don’t want them to see two faces, but the face of Jesus Christ.

(Jesus wants us to judge others graciously.)

(Jesus calls us to examine ourselves honestly before we examine others.) **(Slide #7)**

### III. Jesus advises us to share the truth thoughtfully (**Read v. 6**)

#### A. Jesus advises us to use discernment when speaking truth.

1. At first it's hard to see how verse 6 fits with verses 1-5, but it's continuing the topic (2 images).
2. Dogs not Lady & Tramp or Clifford the Big Red Dog, but eat garbage/bodies and were mongrels.
3. If you gave them a nice steak or rotten meat, they wouldn't care and would even growl (geese).
4. Jesus is simply advising us to not give our wisdom to those that don't want to hear it.
5. Likewise, if you gave a pearl to a pig, it would snort it's snout in disgust.
6. Pigs are "unclean" to the Jews, lived in the wild, and could maim you (Deut 14:8).
7. There may be some people God never gives the opportunity to us to share truth with.
8. He's also advising us to speak truth at the right time, location, etc (circumstances, tone).
9. If a brother has an anger problem, it's probably best to not point that out after the Pats lose.
10. If a sister has trouble with gossip, take the time to explain how gossip hurts (pride, jealousy).
11. Jesus advises us to use discernment when speaking truth.

(Sometimes passages have a first layer of meaning and then a deeper layer... this is one of those.)  
(The key word for figuring this out is **pearl**—it's only used in two passages in Matthew.) (**Slide #8**)

Matthew 13:45–46 “Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like** a merchant looking for **fine pearls**.  
When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

(Pearls are rare, valuable, and a beautiful white; there's nothing more beautiful than the gospel.)  
(There's nothing we should be more thoughtful about sharing than the message of Jesus.)  
(We don't force feed the gospel to people who don't want to hear, but we also don't hide it.)  
(It's not up to us to decide who will listen; so when we've done our best, we give them to God.)  
(Jesus calls us to share the gospel graciously, honestly, and thoughtfully.) (**Slide #9**)

#### B. We speak truth graciously, honestly, and thoughtfully because that's what Jesus did for us.

1. **Thoughtfully**: Jesus came at a specific time and place and chose 12 specific disciples.
2. **Honestly**: Jesus always spoke the truth and did so more passionately than anyone else.
3. **Graciously**: When we judge others ungraciously, dishonestly, or un-thoughtfully, we sin.
4. Jesus came to pay the penalty for the planks of wood, the beams of sin, in our eyes.
5. In Ezra, a Persian ruler declares what will happen to those that disobey him. (**Slide #10**)

**Ezra 6:11** Furthermore, I decree that if anyone defies this edict, **a beam** is to be pulled from their house and they are to be impaled on it. And for this crime their house is to be made a pile of rubble. (**Slide #11**)

**Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is **hung on a pole**.”

6. Jesus paid for the plank in your eye by hanging on two planks we deserve, the cross.
7. When you're tempted to accuse a brother or sister in Christ, remember the plank in Jesus' back.
8. The cure to judgmentalism is to remember Jesus took our judgment. (**Slide #12**)

Conclusion:

1. We speak truth graciously, honestly, and thoughtfully because that's what Jesus did for us.

Benediction: Ephesians 6:24 (NIV) Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.