

Judge Not – Why Not?

Sermon 25 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 7:1-12

I. Judge Not – 7:1-5

A. Initial Observations

B. Matters of Judgment

1. Not by outward appearance – John 7:24
“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”
2. Do not judge matters of opinion (adiaphora) -- the Doctrine of Christian Liberty.
3. Do not judge without sufficient knowledge.
4. Do not think that you stand in the place of God.
5. All judgment has been given to Jesus Christ. John 5:22

C. The Qualifying Immediate Context 7:1-5

1. The Motivation Behind the Command v. 1
2. The Warning Behind the Command v. 2
3. Hypocrites v. 3-5
4. Eye Surgery v. 5

Take care of the “I” before attempting “eye” surgery!

Gal. 6:1 – “Brethren, if any man be overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

II. Be Discerning 7:6

This takes judgment!

Gill quotes a Jewish saying (date and origin uncertain)

“Do not cast pearls before swine, nor deliver wisdom to him, who knows not the excellency of it: for wisdom is better than pearls, and he that does not seek after it, is worse than a swine.”

A. In Gospel Witness

Do not be surprised that the gospel offends because:

1. Natural man does not believe he is a sinner.
2. If a natural man does believe he is a sinner, he naturally wants to be the author of his own salvation – by good works/religious activities.

B. In Missionary Endeavors

C. The Context is Reproving and Rebuking

Proverbs 9:7, 8

There are literally a dozen such Proverbs in this book of wisdom.

Proverbs 26:4, 5

This is not a contradiction – this is wisdom.

III. **Ask, Seek, Find 7:7-12**

A. We Learn about our Father v. 11

B. We Learn about our Responsibility to our Neighbor v. 12

C. We Learn about our Responsibility to Pray 7-10

Ask, Seek Find -- all three verbs are in the present-active-imperative

It's a command. (imperative)

It's something we must do (active)

It something to do continually – keep on doing – (Gk present tense)