

The Gospel of Matthew #67

Sermon on the Mount: chapter 7: God as Judge: instruction & warnings

(ch 5: God as Righteous – ch 6: God as heavenly Father)

See Overview of Sermon on the Mount to see ch 7 in context

JUDGE NOT!

Matthew 7:1-5

Four ways of reacting to Jesus' teaching of chapters 5 & 6:

I. Feel **superior** by knowing the Law: **judge everyone**

This is "outside-in" righteousness: feeling righteous by comparison with others. Criticize to feel better about yourself: "at least I'm not/ I don't..."

A. How?

1. Act as judge (v1-2): I am more obedient or spiritual than you

2. Act as hypocrite (v3-5): I focus on your sins and ignore my own (as if I don't have any)

B. Why?

1. The judge incurs a stricter standard of judgment on himself/herself (v2)
 - From others
 - From God

2. The hypocrite is blind to his/her sins by focusing only on others. Becomes totally out of touch with his/her heart (v3-5)

C. Solution?

1. Recognize the true Judge: James 4:11-12
Romans 2:1-4 → 3:21-28

Receive forgiveness by **grace** → humble → gracious to others
(Matt 5:7; 6:12)

2. See the log in your eye! Become more aware of your heart and repent. Then gentled and able gently to correct another. (7:5)

D. Examples of this at CPC