

## Good Judgment

## Matthew 7

Sermon on the Mount > Jesus' RADICAL Invitation into Kingdom of HEAVEN

Jesus' most WELL KNOWN – Call to DISCIPLESHIP

Following Jesus REQUIRES Good JUDGMENT and Wise DISCERNMENT

Jesus DARINGLY told Jewish listeners Everything you Thought Knew WRONG

*“you have it heard said”* >> BUT Rabbi So & So got it WRONG

Jesus BOLDLY Declares > TRUTH what “I say to you”!

Following Jesus REQUIRES CAREFUL Understanding - GOOD JUDGMENT

Ch 6 > New VIEW of GOD > FATHER who Cares & Provides

Says God is Not FARAWAY, Disinterested Deity, NAME you Cannot MENTION

>> HEAVENLY Father – Knows and Cares for All Needs – even Hairs on HEAD!

To HIM You are of MORE Worth >

than SPARROWS whom God FEEDS / Beautiful Fields God CLOTHES

Chapter 7 > ANOTHER Attribute of True and Living God - Our JUDGE

Surprising JUXTAPOSITION: Father & Judge “I chose the FIRST ONE Thanks!”

Don't Have a Choice – We're MADE God's Image – Cannot make Him into Ours

GOD of Bible Reveals Himself as BOTH Father AND Judge

Chs. 5 & 6 – How to LIVE With AND For GOD NOW

Ch 7 - How to LIVE With GOD FOREVER

JESUS Sermon – Like all Good Sermons – Calls Listeners to DECIDE

What is JUDGMENT? / JUDGING? / What does it Mean to JUDGE NOT?

GOOD JUDGING is GOOD Thing > in All Realms of Life

Accurate TEST for COVID or Cancer - Internet SCAMS > TEST Xtian Teaching

BEING Judgmental is BAD Thing > Jesus says “Judge NOT!”

Judgmental = Attitude of SUPERIORITY – Put SELF Up – Put OTHERS Down

SEE-SAW > God UP, We DOWN / Judgmental: I am UP – ALL Others DOWN

Jesus: “Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.” John 7.24

Jesus: “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone” John 8.7

Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.” Romans 14.4

To BE JUDGMENTAL is VICE / Exercise GOOD Judgment is a VIRTUE

We see 3 ways Jesus considers JUDGMENT in Matthew 7 – Focus vs. 1-6

Try to CLARIFY Meaning by brief look at All 3 Ideas of Judgment in Mt 7

#### Judgment in Matthew 7

Final Judgment	DESTINY	Secures Pardon	Believe, Endure	vs. 13,14, 21-27
Faithful Judgment	DISCERNMENT	Solves Problems	Think, Pray	vs. 6-12, 15-20, 28-29
Foolish Judgment	DIVISION	Separates People	Repent, Be Humble	vs. 1-5

## 1. Final Judgment > DESTINY

Sermon on MOUNT been about TWO Spiritual Kingdoms:

The kingdom of darkness -or- The kingdom of light

The kingdom of this world -or- The kingdom of heaven

The kingdom of Satan -or- The kingdom of God

Why Jesus CLOSE Sermon on Discipleship with Teaching about JUDGMENT?

Understanding GOD is JUDGE tells us LIFE MATTERS, Important, Purposeful

Life SO IMPORTANT there will be DAY of FINAL RECKONING

v. 1 we shall BE JUDGED – once-for-all final Judgment Day

Jesus is GOING to Call on People to make DECISIONS > Eternal Consequences

Your DECISION for Jesus will Determine your FINAL JUDGMENT

Is Jesus trying to scare us at the end of his sermon? Yes!

Jesus has already warned us many times about hell.

Matthew 5:22 Those who hate are in danger of hell.

Matthew 5:30 Those who lust are in danger of hell.

Matthew 7:13 The broad way leads to destruction.

Matthew 7:19 False teachers will be cast into the fire.

Matthew 7:23 False believers will be sent away from God.

vs. 13,14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

There are Only TWO WAYS > Way to HEAVEN and Way to HELL  
 BROAD, Easy, Popular Way > Don't Measure Spiritual Truth by POPULARITY

Just because "Everybody Does It" does not MEAN it is RIGHT

Way to LIFE is LONELY – FEW Choose it because it is HARD

vs. 24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

TWO Foundations > SAND and STONE

SAND > Cheaper, CONVENIENT but it WILL COLLAPSE!

Shopping for Appliances with Russian Friend in KZ

"Cannot AFFORD to Buy CHEAP Stuff! – Need Buy ANOTHER Again SOON!"

## 2. Faithful Judgment: DISCERNMENT

v. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Christians must EXERCISE – GOOD Judgment - DISCERNMENT

v. 6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

v. 6 "what is sacred" – "pearls" > PRECIOUS, HOLY THINGS? SCRIPTURE!

As God's People we HANDLE Holy Things > Very WORD of God

STEWARDSHIP > Entrusted with Word – Responsible to Pass it on Correctly

REASON must Judge -- Not Everyone SHEEP > WOLVES, PIGS, DOGS too!

The dogs and pigs in this verse are not BELOVED PETS around our homes.

DAYNA was Kid in Hawaii had PET PIG > ‘Dark Time’ > became Good BACON!

Jesus’ Meaning: Wild Dogs roam in Packs > Looking for Trouble

Wild Pigs with Tusks that Tear and Kill >> People who Hate the Good News

When Jesus’ knew Enemies Questions only to Trick him / Did Not Teach Them

Not Truly Interested in God > Just want to Argue > Don’t waste Time Arguing

Give “what is sacred / pearls” of God to those with a soft heart.

CHALLENGING to Carefully INTERPRET Bible > Original Author/Audience

See ALL of Scripture FULFILLED and REVEALED in Jesus Christ

Understood in HEAD – Transform our HEARTS – Lived Out in our LIVES

Too many Christians want Pastors/Teachers to give them SIMPLE ANSWERS

Seeking the Leading of SPIRIT thru the Teaching of the SCRIPTURES

Some DOGS & PIGS were Religious Leaders > Not handle Holy Word faithfully

Taught TRADITIONS of MEN more than TRUTHS of the MAKER

Gave people More BURDENS than BLESSINGS

Worked for PRAISE of Men, Not their PROGRESS in GOD

Matthew 7:15 Jesus commands us to watch out for false prophets.

Matthew 16:12 Jesus commands the disciples to watch out for false teaching.

Many offer PLEASING Answers > for their own PERSONAL Gain

JESUS did not have STUMP SPEECH he gave to Every Audience

Applied WORD of God to Each Hearer > Challenge OR Comfort

PREACHED to Thousands BUT Remained SILENT before HEROD

Teach Bible to Help People Follow Jesus > “if I answer question, will you follow?”

THINK before we THROW the PEARLS

Jesus is not saying we should treat good and evil alike and regard moral distinctions as matters of indifference. That would fly in the face of what He says here in this chapter...watch out for the dogs and pigs! Sinclair Ferguson

RENTED Car in CONTINENTAL EUROPE – More FAMILIAR with Driving  
LEFT Hand Drive – SAME SIDE of Road > Just FASTER & more COMPLEX

Ferry to ENGLAND > Driving whole New Challenge

Sitting on WRONG SIDE of CAR and DRIVING on WRONG Side of the ROAD!

When we lived in UGANDA we had Volkswagen > Drove from LEFT Side  
But still Drove on WRONG Side of Road!

Need RADICAL Re-Orientation – PARADIGM Shift on WARP SPEED

KING Jesus says WELCOME to MY KINGDOM – It’s a Whole NEW WORLD!

PRINCIPLE will HELP in our RELATIONSHIPS with Others / Kingdom Citizens

UNDERSTAND SITUATION – SCRIPTURES --- SALVATION >> SERVE

### 3. Foolish Judgment: DIVISION

BEFORE Judge Others, Must Judge Ourselves

verse 1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

Sermon on Mount > Jesus building NEW Community – KINGDOM of God

Nothing KILL It Faster than – Bitterness, Lack of Love, Pride, Attacks on Others

Judgmental SPIRIT can begin as DEFENSE Mechanism in US

We are AWARE/ASHAMED of our OWN FAILURES and FALLING Short

When we are CHALLENGED by Others – directly or indirectly – We ATTACK!

“””Who are YOU to Judge ME! Look at the MESS of your LIFE!”””

THEN our New MODUS OPERANDI is to OPERATE on ATTACK MODE!

We CAN & SHOULD speak TRUTH to DISCERN, Not INTENTION to DIVIDE

Many Guilty Sinners say - “YOU have no right to JUDGE me!”

Important difference from being judgmental and making a judgement.

Can and should say when something is good/bad for the purity of the church and the holiness of our lives.

But we are not allowed to have an attitude/action that says we are in ourselves better than others...all of us are sinners in need of saving grace!

#### BAD JUDGING

1. Judging by outward appearance. John 7:24
2. Judging yourself as better than others. Philippians 2:3
3. Judging others before you judge yourself. Matthew 7:3
4. Judging others about things that are not important. Romans 14:10

The bad kind of judging that Jesus condemns is the kind that always sees the faults of others but never sees your own faults.

Verse 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

NOT Saying God USE Same Vindictive Principles we Sometimes Use on Others  
 Be CAREFUL how you ACT Toward Others > NO MERCY for the MERCILESS  
 Jesus PRIMARY Focus Scribes / Pharisees > they're GUILTY of False Judgment  
 Valued OUTWARD Acts of Righteousness > Seen by MEN as Noble, Virtuous  
 Pharisees PLAYED God – Speaking Final Judgment on OTHERS  
 No Apparent THOUGHT that THEY TOO would be JUDGED by God too

vs. 3-5 Jesus gives RIDICULOUS Picture that makes all of us CRINGE

vs. 3-5 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

No place MORE SENSITIVE than our EYES – LOG STUCK in our EYE!

How could we HELP our Friend get the SPECK of DUST Out?

So busy FINDING SIN that they FORGOT to LOOK in Own EYE, HEART, LIFE

ILLUSTRATION: In 2 Samuel 12:1-7, King David > Guilty of Double Sin

Adultery with Bathsheba and Murder of Bathsheba’s husband Uriah

Prophet Nathan confronts David > Rich Farmer stole only Lamb of Poor Neighbor

King David was furious and asked “Who is this evil person?”

Nathan answered “You are the man.”



David BLIND to Log in Own Eye, Clearly Saw speck of Dust in rich farmer's eye.  
 Easy to be like David > Blind to our own sin > See the sins of others very clearly.

KNOWING our FATHER is our JUDGE Reminds us to be GENTLE

He does NOT Treat us as our SINS DESERVE > God is MERCIFUL, GRACIOUS  
 If we see the sins of others as large and our own sins as small, we sin against Jesus' teaching.

We must SEE CLEARLY to HELP OTHERS

Christians OBLIGATED to Help Others GROW in GRACE

Pharisees JUDGED Others to make THEMSELVES Look Good

We should JUDGE Ourselves to help OTHERS to Look Good

Possible to do GOOD WORK with BAD MOTIVE > Examine Actions & Attitudes  
 Must CHECK Ourselves before we CRITICIZE Others

CARING for SOMEONE'S Eye is DELICATE Work >> How much MORE SOUL  
 Lloyd-Jones, MD "being pastor is more difficult than performing brain surgery"  
 Process of HELPING OTHERS is a TENDER and DELICATE Business

ULTIMATE Tragedy of HYPOCRISY – Spent life being SIN Detector in OTHERS  
 Never UNDERSTAND that Jesus came to be SIN DELIVERER

DEFEATED Sin – DESTROYED Satan – and can DELIVER from HELL

Hypocrite never TURNS gaze from SIN to the SAVIOR

Will Find Out THEIR Self-Righteousness FALL Short on FINAL Day > HELL

Like ALL Good Sermons > Jesus Sermon on Mount ends with Call for Decision

NOT JUST Conveying INFORMATION – Nice Thoughts – Good Feelings

Not just Saying be BETTER, NICER, KINDER

Sermon on Mount REVEALS OUR Fallenness

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5.48

We JUDGE WRONGLY & Therefore are DESERVING of JUDGMENT!

JUST 2 Religions in this World – DO and DONE

DO – Big! Lots of Traditions, Practices, Rituals, Prayers, Pilgrimages

ALL ABOUT WHAT WE DO – Some People in Church in DO RELIGION!

PLEASE God by what I DO – Earn His Favor – Gain Merit – HEAVENLY Points!

Problem: God HOLY, Perfect, Righteous – What we Present is NOT, Unacceptable

vs. 21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Jesus NOT Say did NOT DO those Great Things – Probably DID

Salvation Not what we DO – What HE DID – Knowing HIM who Can SAVE US

LOST by their DO Religion --- Jesus NEVER says they Did NOT Do! They DID!

BUT they did NOT Know Him!

FINAL Test – Not what WE Think of Ourselves – or Even what OTHERS think...

FINAL Test is WHAT DOES GOD THINK?

Need Religion of DONE – by Jesus – Savior, Sacrifice, Substitute, Sanctification

Chinese American friend called me from Los Angeles this Week

Degrees from Stanford, Yale...picked up another degree from Harvard

Been on Faculty at BEIDA and TSINGHUA > want him BACK to Teach

Wants to do THEOLOGICAL Studies to Teach Bible more Accurately

GRAD: a lot ACADEMICS / BUSINESS – DO MORE in Church God Accept Me

NOTHING can DO for God to Accept You --- Our Best is STAINED by SIN

Only JESUS can MAKE us RIGHT with God by CROSS and RESURRECTION

DO Religion IS BUILT ON SAND --- FEEBLE Works that WE Can Do

DONE Religion WITHSTANDS the WINDSTORMS of LIFE – SOLID ROCK

WHAT HOPE do We HAVE? None in OURSELVES! Need Shelter from Storm

NEED Rock to Keep us STRONG – Need SAVIOR to Take our SINS

TRUE Faith in Christ will LAST – Endure the STORMS of Life

We WILL be there in Heaven if TRUST is in CHRIST

TRUST the Faithfulness of God from NEW BIRTH to FINAL BREATH

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