

9—Jesus on Judging

Matthew 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42



1. What does it mean to “judge?” In what situations is it absolutely necessary to make judgments? If this is the case, then is Matthew 7:1 a blanket prohibition against any type of judgment?

2. Consider the following three examples: government, the church, the individual. In the passages below, what do we learn about these entities role in making judgments?

- 2 Peter 2:13-15; Hebrews 8:17; Titus 3:1--
- Matthew 18:16-17; Titus 3:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14; 2 John 10; 1 Timothy 1:20—
- Matthew 7:15-16; Romans 16:17; 1 John 4:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11—

3. So, what types of “judgments” are forbidden in Scripture? Looking at the context of Matthew 7:2-5, what kind of judgments does Jesus address in the context? What must the one tempted to judge another do first with himself?

4. Look back into the Old Testament for a moment. What types of actions are defined as being “unjust” in judgment (Leviticus 19:15-18)?

5. In John 7:24, what kind of judgment is rebuked in this passage? Why is this type of judgment dangerous? Can you think of any other Bible passages or principles which warn us against making decisions based on appearances?

6. Do we have the right to personally condemn others (see Luke 6:37)? Whose authority do we usurp when we sit in the judgment seat (James 5:11-12)?

7. On the other hand, clearly there are times someone's actions may put them in eternal danger (Matthew 25:41-46; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21). What is the proper way to warn them without it becoming a personal condemnation?

8. In the Luke account, Jesus connects His instructions about judging to a "blind" teacher trying to lead another person (Luke 6:39-40). If we are hypocritically instructing others concerning matters we, ourselves, are not doing then what will our disciples likely also become?

9. What kind of person does Paul instruct to correct another (Galatians 6:1)? What will begin to happen among those being corrected when they sense inconsistency and hypocrisy from the "correctors?"

10. Jesus offers a blunt instruction in Matthew 7:6. What does this mean? How can reading Leviticus 6:24-30 or 7:15-21 help us understand His point? What were the priests to do with even the "scraps?" What does the book of Proverbs say about "correcting a scoffer" (Proverbs 9:7-8)?

