

Matthew 7:1-6 (11/10/2024)

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Matthew 7:1-6

1. Jesus commands us to “judge not” (which means “condemn not”). What are some ways that we judge others?

2. Read John 8:1-11 concerning the religious leaders, an adulteress, and Jesus. How is this encounter and illustration of Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 7:1-5?

3. Do you think “judge not” means we are to disregard the sinful actions of others? From Matthew 7:1-5; John 7:24; and Galatians 6:1 discuss how believers are called to address sinful behavior.

4. “Jesus calls attention to our tendency to give the judgment of charity to ourselves but not to others. We interpret our failures and sins in the best of all possible lights. In fact, we often do not call our sin ‘sin’. We refer instead to our ‘mistakes’ and ‘bad decisions.’ We must never judge the motives of another because we cannot possibly know what motivates another unless we are told... We can look at what was done and evaluate whether the action was good or bad, but only God knows the heart of what motivated that particular behavior.”
(Matthew: An Expository Commentary p.163 by R.C. Sproul)

Discuss your thoughts regarding Sproul’s quote. Why must we not judge another person’s heart (motives)?

5. Jesus teaches we are not to execute the judgement of condemnation. But in Matthew 7:6, He instructs us to exercise the judgement of discernment. What do you think Jesus is asking us to discern (see also Matthew 10:11-14)?

6. What are the “pearls” God has given you (Matthew 13:45-46) to share with discernment?