

## Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: “True Disciples Refuse to Think the Worst of Others But Only the Best”. Matthew 7:1-11 and Luke 6:37-42.

March 30, 2019

Today’s Scripture: <sup>3</sup> Furthermore judge not, <sup>1</sup> lest you be judged. For in the same way you judge, you will be judged. <sup>3</sup> condemn not, and you will not be condemned. Release, and you will be released.

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will men pour out into your lap. For with the measure you use will it be measured to you in return.”

Then he spoke to them in a similitude: “Can a blind man guide the blind? Will not both of them fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, and everyone perfectly taught will resemble his teacher.

“But why do you glare at the speck in your brother’s eye, but see not the piece of lumber in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ <sup>1</sup> when lo, <sup>3</sup> you yourself do not see the piece of lumber in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take out the piece of lumber from your own eye, and then will you see clearly to take out the speck from your brother’s eye.

<sup>1</sup> “Give not that which is holy to the dogs, nor pour out your pearls before the swine-lest the latter trample on them with their feet, and they should turn around and wound you.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who is seeking finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

“For what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If then you, though evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Discussion Thursday night about other church’s requirements to partake of communion.

Also this passage is probably the most frequently quoted out of context passage quoted in the Bible. "Judge not lest you be judged."

Main point: As followers of Christ we must not judge believers' hidden motives but, at the same time we must judge a non-believers' sincerity to hear and obey the truth. Failure on both counts will harm us followers of Christ.

Context:

Exegesis

1. We are commanded by our Lord to not make judgments about believers' actions or motives. Only God has that right.
  - James 4:11–12 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. [12] There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (ESV)
  - This critical spirit in us serves to separate fellow believers from one another. God cares very deeply about the unity of His family and Christ's bride.
  - Jesus did not specify what kind of judgments we are to abstain from so the intent had to be very broad in its application. Let's look at some examples:
    - A person speaks abruptly to you and you take it as an offense. You read into their curttness thinking the worst. But, you fail to consider they had an argument with spouse/child/sibling or a horrible week at work or a splitting headache you knew nothing about.
    - A woman might wear too much makeup or wear expensive clothes and someone might say "Who is she trying to impress". Maybe her mother never taught her how to wear make-up modestly or appropriately or in regards to the expensive clothing maybe her parents taught her to by the best because they last longer and are a better value.
    - We judge people based on the kind of car they drive, whether its brand new, "They live beyond their means", or rusting out and falling apart, we say "He's trying to show he's more frugal than we are".
    - President Trump is judged as a non-believer because of his crude language and his past history of failed marriages. Some people are absolutely convinced he cannot be a born-again believer. They have judged him.
2. If we tend to be critical of others, others will be critical of us. *For in the same way you judge, you will be judged. 3 condemn not, and you will not be condemned. Release, and you will be released.*
  - This has to be horizontal judgment not vertical. God can never make incorrect assumptions about us and judge our motives poorly or incorrectly. Therefore it has

to be that others around us will dish out to us the same critical attitude we dish out to others.

- The corollary then is true. If we are always gracious and give people the benefit of the doubt as we say, then people will generally do the same for you. You want criticism then be critical. You want grace, then be gracious.
  - The Greek word in this passage for release or as other translations say “forgive” is the word *apoluo*. Here it has to mean set free. Whomever you set free will result in you being set free. Question is, set free from what?”
    - From the prison cell of ostracism. You want to keep people from socializing with you and your friends, start bad-mouthing them. If they try to break into your clique, they will discover quickly they are not welcome. Don’t know who is actually in prison in this situation but the effect is still the same.
    - Want to see your pastor get really mad? Let him observe this in action. He can’t help himself. He gets really, really angry when he sees anyone put out, ignored and shut out. Happened several months back and I told you about it. Sad thing is the couple has never returned. Don’t know if that was the reason, but it possibly could have been.
3. The opposite of a critical and condemning spirit is a spirit of lavish grace and praise. Jesus tells us that the more we spread good-will the more good-will we will get back with compounding interest. *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will men pour out into your lap. For with the measure you use will it be measured to you in return.”*
- This is more about being generous in spirit than in money. Context implies liberal praise.
  - We need to treat fellow believers just like Paul treated the members of the churches he planted. He considered them his dearest family and often spoke to them as if they were his children in the Lord.
    - Philippians 1:8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. (ESV)
    - Colossians 1:3–4 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, [4] since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, (ESV)
    - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)
    - Philemon 4–5 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, [5] because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, (ESV)
4. It is a truism, that the things we complain the most about in others is almost always that very same hang-up in us. We just can’t see it in ourselves as easily as we can see it in others.

*Then he spoke to them in a similitude: "Can a blind man guide the blind? Will not both of them fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, and everyone perfectly taught will resemble his teacher.*

- If we want to help others grow in their Christian walk then we need to be sure that we are not guilty of doing the same things we are accusing others of doing. If we gossip our children will gossip. If we rationalize our younger disciples will rationalize. If we lead prayer-less lives our children and disciples will not pray. If we are stingy and don't tithe our incomes, then don't expect your children or anyone you disciple to give 10%.
5. The command to "judge not" does not apply to church discipline. We are called to confront when the purity of the Body is at stake. 1 Corinthians 5, Matthew 18
6. Normally we are not to judge people's motives and intent. But when it comes to the gospel of Jesus Christ we are told to not waste it on scoffers. *"Give not that which is holy to the dogs, nor pour out your pearls before the swine-lest the latter trample on them with their feet, and they should turn around and wound you.*
- Why didn't Jesus preach the gospel of the Kingdom to the High Priest and those gathered at His mock trial? Didn't they need to hear?
    - Proverbs 9:7 Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. (ESV)
    - Proverbs 13:1 A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. (ESV)
    - Jude 17–19 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. [18] They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." [19] It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. (ESV)

#### Application

- We all judge. Every one of us is guilty. How do we stop? By asking God to open our eyes to the beam in our own eye. Ask Him to see our ugliness and pride from His perspective. Ask Him to give you clearness of vision to see how often you do it and how unkind you are when you do it.