

## Matthew 7:1-12

### Verses 1-5

- This verse is primarily addressed to believers.
- The word “judge” can also be translated as condemn.
- This verse does not exclude judgments of all kinds. We are to exercise righteous judgment (**John 7:24**) as we use judgment to discern right from wrong, what is sin, what is holy, etc.
- The meaning of this verse is that we are not to judge hypocritically, self-righteously, or with a spirit of condemnation.
- We are to use the judgment of charity which means that we are to give people the benefit of the doubt and not automatically assume the worst. We are to use the same judgment that we for ourselves upon others.
- We are much easier on ourselves than we are on other people when it comes to our sins.
- The log in our eyes we often consider a speck and the speck in someone else’s eyes to us looks like a log.
- This is referencing your fellow brothers (believers in Christ). Many divisions and collapses of relations have occurred as a result of this type of condemnation, judgment, and self-righteous pride toward others.
- The way that we judge and condemn people will be by the same measure given to us.
  - **Romans 2:1-3** Therefore you have no excuse, <sup>[a]</sup>everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. <sup>2</sup>And we know that the judgment of God <sup>[b]</sup>rightly falls upon those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup>But do you suppose this, O man, <sup>[c]</sup>when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God?
- We are to hold each other accountable and correct others, but this is to be done in a humble and humble manner with the right motives and with lack of condemnation.
- The motive is to be to help a fellow brother to grow in sanctification and walk in freedom and grow in sanctification, not to destroy them with self-righteous judgment and condemnation (**1 Corinthians 5:1-5**).
- When we first examine ourselves (logs in our eyes) then we will be able to help others in the correct manner which is humility and gentleness to help their sanctification.
- If we begin to condemn and judge others while we are in the same or worse sins, we are hypocrites.
- We cannot judge motives.
- Will we destroy relationships and hinder our and other’s sanctification for a speck?

### Verse 6

- Swine were considered unclean to the Jew (**Lev 11:7,27**), (**Exodus 22:31**)
- Dogs were considered dirty and unclean (**Proverbs 26:11**), (**2 Peter 2:22**), (**1 Samuel 17:43**), (**Revelation 22:15**)
- We have the pearl of great price in Christ, His gospel, and His kingdom (**Matthew 13:45**)
- We are to use discernment in how, when, and how often we share the gospel to those continuously, stubbornly, and with hatred reject the gospel. These people don’t understand the value of the pearl of great price but consider it of the same or lesser value than the mud and the slop. He is not saying don’t share the gospel but use discernment in situations to determine if our evangelism would be best suited with the proclamation of the gospel to someone else.

### Verses 7-11

- Asking, seeking, and knocking for the things of God occur after our regeneration.
- Our seeking of God and kingdom of God begins after our salvation as no one seeks God or the things of God in our unregenerate state (**Romans 3:11**).
- After our salvation, our seeking of God and His kingdom never end until our glorification.

## Ask, seek, knock

- **Ask**- We are not to demand anything from God but approach Him humbly and reverently knowing is the source of all our needs. We are dependent on His merciful hand for all things.
- **Seeking**-This speaks to our human responsibility to pursue and seek after the things of God. We are to be hungry and seek after things such as His kingdom and His righteousness (**Mathew 6:33**) as well as the things above (**Colossians 3:1**).
- **Knock**- This speaks to persevering in our prayers and seeking.
  - Parable of the persistent widow (**Luke 18:1-8**)
- If earthly fathers who are born into total depravity and are fallen creatures love, give, and provide for the needs of their children, how much more will our perfect Heavenly Father give to us the good things we need and provide for His children.
  - **James 1:17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or <sup>[a]</sup>shifting shadow.
- The greatest of these gifts that that He gives us to help in our sanctification and seeking of righteousness is the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Luke 11:10-13** For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Now <sup>[a]</sup>suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a <sup>[b]</sup>fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? <sup>12</sup> Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* <sup>[c]</sup>heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

## Verse 12

- These speaks to what is known as the “golden rule” as we are to treat people in the same way you want them to treat you. This is a proactive response and attitude towards others. We can’t control how others treat us, but we can control how we treat others.
  - **Matthew 22:34-40** But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, <sup>[a]</sup>a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the great and <sup>[a]</sup>foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Do not judge, so that you will not be judged which can also be translated “do not condemn, so that you will not be condemned.” Let us not be people that walk around with a spirit of condemnation and self-righteous, hypocritical judgment upon others. Christ is the only one who can condemn as He demonstrated in the story of the woman caught in adultery in **John 8:1-11** as He is the only One without sin as the perfect eternal judge. He would have been fully just to condemn everyone of us. However, to the believer He has extended mercy and forgiveness through justification. As a result of justification, we who stood to be condemned now have no condemnation through His imputed righteousness upon us. All who are saved have heard the words the woman caught in adultery heard, “I do not condemn you. Go. From now on sin no more.” There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ (**Romans 8:1**). As Christians who have escaped condemnation and have been forgiven of the most, let us reflect this in our attitudes and actions toward others as we seek to help them rather than destroy them. Let us examine ourselves first and remove the log from our eyes so that we can then with sincere motives help our brothers and sisters to grow in sanctification so they like the woman can strive to go and sin no more.

