

Vision Correction

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"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 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. 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 then turn and tear you to pieces."
Matthew 7:1-6 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

In this teaching on the side of the mountain, Jesus wanted His audience to understand that self-righteousness would not be permitted in the kingdom of heaven. We've learned that A follower of God must be "poor in spirit" (5:3), not filled with pride. He must love his enemies, not hate them (5:44). He is to do good deeds, but only to please God, not men (6:1-4). The scribes and Pharisees were guilty of wearing "righteousness" on their sleeves, rather than in their hearts (6:1-8; cf. 23:1-36). It was in the midst of such strong public rebuke that Christ proclaimed, "Judge not. . . that you be not judged." So what did He mean? Can we live without making any judgments?

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- What stood out to you about this teaching?
- Have you heard the "judge not" phrase used? In what way?
- How really honest are you about the "plank" in your eye?
- How can you really help your brother with his "sawdust?"

APPLICATION:

What "planks" in my eye need my own attention?

Ask a trusted friend to help you see more clearly.

How can I show mercy yet help with a friend's "sawdust?"

ON YOUR OWN...

Luke 6:36-38; James 2:13; James 4:11-12
Galatians 6:1-3; [2 Timothy 2:24-26](#)