

Sermon Discussion Questions

Kingdom Pivot

Matthew 7:1-6

Nov 2, 2019

Getting Started: We want to be a people who are known more for “what we are for” versus “what we are against”! Our society seems to be growing ever more polarized to the point that people can’t even have civil conversations anymore. This message will help you learn how to live graciously in a world of hurting, confused people.

Going Deeper:

The Danger of being Judgmental: *“Judge not, that you be not judged.”* (Vs. 1)

The Misunderstanding: Informed judgement is not wrong!

Read Colossians 2:17-8 and Romans 12:2 Be discerning of good/evil and wise/foolish behavior. Use your Christian mind to make critical choices. Even if you ‘have it all together,’ your thoughts, words, and opinions might be rejected by others. **What are some ways you can share your Christian view of the world in a non-offensive way?**

The Meaning: Insulting judgement is wrong!

Don’t judge other’s motives and don’t condemn others. Don’t be a negative fault finder who is destructive toward others and actively seeking other’s failings and mistakes. Don’t assume the worst of other’s motives or pour cold water on their ideas.

In what ways, do you find yourself being critical and judgmental of others? If you don’t think you are, ask a close friend to listen to you talk for the next week. Have them point out your speech tendencies, especially as they pertain to insulting judgments. You may just be surprised at how critical you actually are.

The Discrimination of being Judgmental: *“For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”* (Vs. 2)

The Pronouncement of Pride: Based on Assumptions.

Don’t know all the facts.

Don’t know all the findings.

The Measurement is a Mirror: Based on Accusations

Authority of God: (Romans 14:4)

Accountability of God: (Romans 14:12)

The old Indian proverb said, "Never judge a man until you walked a while in his moccasins." It's so easy for us to assume we know why a person is acting the way they are. And yet, we're so often wrong. Romans 14:4 reminds us that God is the only One who can truly judge a person, and Romans 14:12 warns us that we will each give an account to God for our own behavior and choices. **How can you change judgement to graciousness and harshness to kindness and compassion?**

The Dishonor of being Judgmental:

Quick to Condemn: *"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" (Vs.3)*

Quick to Correct: *"Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?" (Vs.4)*

Quick to Counsel: *"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Vs.5)*

A 'speck' would be equivalent to a small piece of sawdust, while a 'log' would be like a modern roof beam. Does your fellow Christian have something wrong in his/her life that needs to be dealt with? If so, humble yourself by examining your own life first, and then, when you are right with God, and your motives are pure, you may graciously point out their sin and offer to help. **What faults do you often see in others? What faults might they often see in you?**

The Deliverance from being Judgmental: *"Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you." (Vs. 6)*

Regard the Mission as Important:

Do Not give Up

Do Not give Over

Rejection of the Message is Increasing

This phrase seems to speak to the other end of the spectrum. While there are those who will be receptive to your gracious intervention in their life, and will humbly receive what you have to say, there are some who will violently oppose you and may even attempt to destroy you. **Why do you think they fight back so quickly? What makes you want to explode on someone who is criticizing you?**

Take Away: Challenge divisive language by countering it with a discerning lifestyle.