

## Judging

Jesus Says: A Series on the Sermon on the Mount Part 12

*Matthew 7:1-6*

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### Judging

- Tonight we're going to talk about judging. Judging is something we all hate receiving, but love doing. We all hate receiving judgement, but love judging others.
- Show clip of Stanley Hudson from the *The Office* on judging people and jury duty.<sup>1</sup>
- We all judge. We like to look at others and critique literally everything about them (their looks, what they say and do). And we like it.
- We love to sit around and gossip.
  - Did you hear about who he was texting? Did you hear what she said to him? Can you believe that guy? There are some people, no matter what they do, we critique their actions.
- On the other hand, unfortunately, we all know what it feels like to be judged. We've heard those comments about us from people who thought we wouldn't hear. We've been told by others about what others said.
- Judgement happens all of there place. Tell the story of the man who was judged in the south for playing cards and for smoking on the west coast.

### Judging and the Church

- We all have experienced judgement. And we have probably experienced it in the Church. (Or we have come off as being judgemental)
- According to David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons of the Barna Group (a Christian research company) 87 percent of people between the ages of 18-30 perceive the church to be judgemental.<sup>2</sup>
- This is a problem. If the church should be known for anything it should be known for its love of God and people. Not for being judgemental.
- They define being judgemental as "to point out something that is wrong in someone else's life, making the person feel put down, excluded, and marginalized."<sup>3</sup>
- This is a problem. But luckily Jesus does address it.

### Jesus Says: Sermon on the Mount

- Jesus does address judging with us in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Since it's been over a month since our last Worship Wednesday, and since we began the Sermon on the Mount in August, I'd like for us to do a little review.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3zY5SMpfal>

<sup>2</sup> David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons, *UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity and Why it Matters* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 182.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 182.

- The Sermon on the Mount is one of the longest uninterrupted portions of scripture of Jesus speaking (hence the name Jesus Says, red-lettered). It is found in Matthew 5-7.
- Like Moses, Jesus is giving God's Law. Similarly to the story of Moses, Jesus avoids death by a ruler as a baby, goes to the wilderness, and goes up on a mountain to deliver God's Law.
- In the sermon Jesus tells us who is truly blessed (the Beatitudes, 5:2-12). He tells us that we are to be salt and light in the world (5:13-16). He tells us that he, the Christ, came to fulfill the Law, and not to abolish the Law (5:17-20). He then critiques the interpretations of many of the Laws of God. He would say "You have heard that it was said...but I tell you" (5:21-48). Jesus then addresses our motivations of doing good things. He said each time, "they have received their reward" (6:1-18). Jesus then tells us to lay up treasures in heaven, to stop worrying, and to seek first the Kingdom of God (6:19-34).
- The Sermon on the Mount tells us how to be people of the Kingdom of God.
- I'd like to challenge you all to read the whole Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) sometime this week. It'll take you less than 15 minutes to read.
- Also listen to past lessons on the Sermon on the Mount on our website.

### **Matthew 7:1-6**

#### **Do not judge people. (Matthew 7:1)**

- Jesus commands us not to judge people. As we discussed earlier we are all tempted to judge and dislike it when we are judged. I want to talk about what happens when we do judge.
- This does two things:
  - It makes us God.
    - We put ourselves in a higher position than the one we're actually in.
    - When I was a kid when me and my parents left us alone me and my sister would argue about who was actually in charge. I thought I should be in charge because I was two and a half years older than her, but she would argue that she should be in charge because she went through a babysitter training in fourth grade.
    - When we pronounce judgement upon people we are placing ourselves in the place of God. We're putting ourselves in a higher position than we should be.
  - It puts us in a higher position than the person we're judging.
    - When we judge what we're actually saying is we're better than the other person. We're saying the other person is less than.
    - In just a few weeks after the Super Bowl, if you keep up with sports, all you will hear discussed is the draft. Commentators and talking heads will all debate who should go first. But in the Kingdom of God there is not first, second, third rounds, or undrafted free agents. We're all created in the image of God.

- When we judge others, not only do we think too highly of ourselves, but we think too lowly of others, too.
- God wants us to be humble. He wants humility. It's impossible to be humble and judge another person.
- God is the potter. We're not the potter. If anything, (as Francis Chan says) we're pieces of clay telling other pieces of clay about the potter (*Romans 9:21*).<sup>4</sup>

**We will be judged by how we judge others. (*Matthew 7:2*)**

- Jesus says that we will be judged by the standard of how we judge others.
- This is not a new thought in the Sermon on the Mount. Where have we seen something similar to this in the Sermon? He says in *6:14* that we will be forgiven similarly to how we forgive. (Lord's Prayer)
- Jesus' earthly brother James in *James 2:13* (many believe that James is influenced heavily by the Sermon on the Mount when he writes his epistle) says "For judgement is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement."
- Really think about this. How terrifying is this? We will be judged based on the standard of how we judge others. There is no way that we can measure up to that standard.
  - Have you ever judged someone for doing something and then did it yourself (cut someone off in traffic, blew off someone, ignored a text)?
- Someone once said that we tend to judge others based on their actions, but judge ourselves based on our intentions.
- We must watch ourselves and guard ourselves against judging.

**Address your own sin before you point out others' sins. (*Matthew 7:3-5*)**

- Jesus is going us a humorous anecdote.
- Jesus tells us plainly: why would you point out another person's problems when you've got 10 times more than he does?
- You are a hypocrite if you point out others' faults without addressing your own.
- Like a person who complains about how much someone else sinks when they haven't showered in a week.
- Look at yourself. Address your own sin before you point out another's sin.
- Does not judging mean we never confront people in their sin? NO
- Jesus in *Matthew 18:15-20* tells how how to confront people when they're in sin. We are to do it humbly and to not gossip about it. (We don't say "bless his heart" and then proceed to talk about others' faults)
  - There is no room for gossip in the Kingdom of God.
  - Let's all make a commitment to not gossip this semester.

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<sup>4</sup> "Erasing Hell by Francis Chan," David C. Cook, May 19, 2011, accessed on January 10, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnrJVTSYLr8>

### **Remember how much you need Jesus.**

- Scot McKnight said this: “What Jesus does here is complex: he creates self-awareness leading to self-judgement; this leads to humility, which in turn leads to repentance and sanctification; this leads to the kind of humility that treats other sinners with mercy; it creates a kingdom society shaped not by condemnation but humility, love, and forgiveness.”<sup>5</sup>
- How can we guard ourselves against judging?
- **Remember how much you need Jesus.**
  - Remember that you’re a sinner.
  - Remember where you would be without Jesus.
  - Remember that Jesus gave you a new life.
  - Remember God’s love, mercy, and grace.
- When we remember all that God has done for us, we can never judge another person.
- When we remember how much we need Jesus, our default is not judgement, but transformation.
  - When we become self-aware of our own faults and stop looking at others, that's when change happens.

### **Three Observations Concerning Judgement**

#### **Don’t let judging keep someone out of the Kingdom of God.**

- Have you ever heard people say that they like Jesus but not the church? Have you ever witnessed people who leave the church because people treated them badly.
- You have all heard me say this, but God uses people to reach people.
- Do not let your judgement and your looking down on someone run someone away from the church or from the good news of Jesus.

#### **When you judge someone you don’t understand the Gospel.**

- The Gospel convicts us of our sins. It tells us that we need a Savior. When we you judge someone and look down upon them and put yourself in a higher place you forget that you need a Savior. If anything you should look at someone and realize that they need a Savior just like you.
- When you look down upon someone and judge them you are saying that you are greater than them. Jesus says “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” (*Mark 9:35*).

#### **What would HFC look like if we stopped judging and started loving?**

- When someone came in they would feel welcome.
- You would have no reservations of inviting your friends, no matter their background.
- People could be open and real and honest about their issues and problems.

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<sup>5</sup> Scot McKnight, *The Story of God Commentary: Sermon on the Mount* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 230.

**Jesus takes the judgement of our sins upon himself.**

- Jesus took the judgement that we deserved.
- We all sin. And sin separates us from God.
- Jesus comes in takes the sin that separated us from God so that we could be reconciled to God.
- *Isaiah 53:3-5; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*