

**PASTOR:** Kip McCormick

**DATE:** March 23, 2025

**SERIES:** Sermon on the Mount

**SERMON:** Who's the Judge?

**MAIN SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 7:1-12 (NASB 1995)

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING:** 1 Samuel 16:7; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 5:10; 1 John 5:14

**MESSAGE TAKEAWAY:** Having a judgmental heart keeps you from treating others the way God wants you to treat them.



**SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:**

- “Judge not” doesn’t prohibit us from focusing on actions and behaviors. It prohibits us from judging a person’s heart.
- Jesus’ command that we do not judge others does not mean we cannot show discernment.
- What’s a sinful judgment for Christians?
  - Judging someone solely based on appearances. (John 7:24)
  - Jumping to conclusions without getting the facts. (Proverbs 18:13; Luke 7:36-50)
  - Pointing out the sin of others while we commit the same sin. (Romans 2:1)
  - Harsh, unforgiving judgment. (Titus 3:2)
  - Self-righteous judgment – “I’m better than you...” - James 4:6
- We can judge actions and behaviors, but not the heart. *“We inspect the fruit, but we can’t see the root.”* (Tara Leigh Cobble - “The Bible Recap”)

***“...for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” - 1 Samuel 16:7***

- When you speak into someone’s actions/behaviors, you do so with love and humility rather than hypocritical pride.

***“For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.” - Matthew 7:2***

- In essence, Jesus is saying, “What comes around, goes around if you’re making junk judgments.”

***“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.” - Matthew 7:6***

- Pearls to Pigs - We should be wise and discerning in our witnessing, so that we will not be wasting our time.

***“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” - Mathew 7:7***

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING THOUGHTS -

- Our prayers need to be consistent and persistent.
- God will answer prayers in one of four ways – 1. Yes. 2. No. 3. Wait 4. I've got a better plan.
- Beware of saying, "Stones and snake prayers."
- "Stones and snake prayers" can be prayers that don't align with God's Word, and you know it.

***"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets." - Matthew 7:12***

- The Golden Rule is often referred to as the "Summit of the Sermon on the Mount."
- The concept of the re-touch: For God so loves you (touch), He wants you to love (touch) others.

**CHALLENGE:** Live out that Golden Rule. Treat others not just the way you want them to treat you, but the way Jesus wants you to treat them.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What part of today's teaching challenged you the most? Why?
- Are Christians forbidden from ever judging others?
- What does it mean to judge others?
- If we are not supposed to judge others, then what do we do about their sin?
- So, what kind of attitude should we have about judging?
- What do the speck, and the plank represent? Have you ever been hypocritical of having a "plank" in your eye while pointing out a speck in someone else's? What happened?
- What is the meaning of verse 6 and how is it related to the rest of the passage?
- What do verses 7-11 show us about God's heart?
- What do these verses show us about our position as God's children?
- What kind of things count as "good gifts?"
- Have you ever prayed "stones and snakes" prayers? How'd that turn out for you?
- How does verse 12 relate to the passage? What does it show us about the importance of our actions toward others?
- How is grace a continuous theme in this passage?