

Let Us Avoid Unfair Judgment

(Matthew 7:1-5)

Introduction:

1. In this portion of His Sermon on the Mount Jesus revealed His will concerning "unfair judgment."
2. Although we have been exposed to a great amount of unfair judging lately, the Lord's followers are to avoid it.
3. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. JESUS COMMANDED HIS FOLLOWERS TO AVOID UNFAIR JUDGMENT
 - A. Jesus said very plainly in vs.1a, "*Judge not.*"
 - B. Since this is a command of Christ, we must:
 1. understand what the Lord was teaching
 2. obey Him [in this case we must avoid "judging"].
- II. LET US DETERMINE WHAT JESUS WAS TEACHING
 - A. To understand what Jesus was teaching, we must define the word "*judge.*"
 1. In general, "*judge*" means "to form a conclusion on the basis of evidence."
 2. In the context, Jesus talked about the practice of "**severely** and **unfairly** finding fault in other people."
 - B. In vs.3-4 Jesus illustrated the kind of "judging" that He forbids.
 1. Jesus talked about a man who had a "*beam*" in his eye.
 2. This man overlooked his "*beam*" to point out the "*mote*" in his brother's eye.
 3. We must not condemn others for doing the same things that we do.
 4. The Jews were guilty of this kind of judging (Romans 2:1-3, 21-24).
 - C. It is unfortunate, but this command of Christ is often misapplied.
 1. Some people believe that the Lord forbids all judging.
 - a. This is a misapplication.
 - b. The Lord does not forbid all judging because we are actually commanded to make certain judgments (John 7:24).
 2. Some people believe the Lord's command means that we cannot point out others' faults to them.
 - a. This is another misapplication.
 - b. Consider the commands given in Matthew 18:15; 2 Timothy 4:1-2.
 3. The Lord does not forbid all judging, but He does forbid "severely and unfairly finding fault in other people."

III. JESUS EXPLAINED WHY WE MUST AVOID UNFAIR JUDGMENT

- A. (vs.1b) We must avoid unfair judgment so we will not be judged ourselves.
- B. (vs.2) We will receive the same judgment that we pass out (Galatians 6:7).
- C. Other reasons why we must not judge:
 - 1. Pointing out the faults of others while overlooking our own can become a habit.
 - 2. When we participate in this kind of judging, we influence others to do the same thing.

IV. FINALLY, JESUS SHOWED HOW UNFAIR JUDGMENT CAN BE AVOIDED

- A. First, we must realize that unfair judgment is a sin.
 - 1. The Lord forbids it, and if we do it we transgress His will (1 John 3:4).
 - 2. Jesus also said that a person who constantly looks for faults in others while overlooking his own is a hypocrite (vs.5).
- B. Second, we must pull the beams out of our own eyes.
 - 1. The Bible teaches us to judge ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5).
 - 2. We must judge ourselves by the Lord's standards (2 Corinthians 10:18).
 - 3. After judging ourselves by the Lord's standards we can see clearly so we can in turn help others with their faults.
- C. Third, practice "the second commandment" (Matthew 22:39).

Conclusion:

- 1. "Unfair judgment" is something that the Lord's followers must avoid.
- 2. This practice is serious -- it will affect the destiny of our souls.