

The Sermon on the Mount

(Lesson 16)

Introduction:

1. In Matthew 7 Jesus revealed His will on a number of subjects.
2. In vs.1-5 He addressed "judging."

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1a) JESUS COMMANDS US NOT TO JUDGE
 - A. He said very plainly, "*Judge not.*"
 - B. This is a challenging command because the Lord teaches us to make certain judgments (Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:3; John 7:24).
 - C. To understand what Jesus was talking about, we must define "judge."
 1. In general, "judge" means to form a conclusion on the basis of evidence.
 2. In the context, "judging" is severely and unfairly finding fault in others.
 3. Jesus forbids having a harsh, critical, and pessimistic attitude that is demonstrated by constantly finding fault in others.
 - D. After telling us not to do this kind of judging, . . .
- II. (vs.1b-2) JESUS EXPLAINED WHY WE MUST NOT JUDGE
 - A. (vs.1b) We must not judge to prevent being judged ourselves.
 - B. (vs.2) We can expect to receive the judgment that we pass out (Galatians 6:7).
 - C. After explaining why we must not judge, . . .
- III. (vs.3-4) JESUS ILLUSTRATED THE KIND OF JUDGING THAT HE FORBIDS
 - A. Jesus forbids pointing out the faults of others while overlooking our own faults.
 1. Jesus talked about a man who had a "beam" [large piece of wood] in his eye.
 2. He overlooked his beam to point out the "mote" [small piece of wood] in his brother's eye.
 3. The Jews were guilty of this kind of judging (Romans 2:1-3, 21-24).
 4. This is the kind of judging that the Lord forbids.
 - B. This is a serious matter because:
 1. pointing out the faults of others while overlooking our own can become a habit
 2. those who do it influence others to do the same thing.
- IV. (vs.5) HOW TO CURE AND PREVENT THIS TYPE OF JUDGING
 - A. First, we must realize that it is a sin.
 1. The Lord forbids it, and if we do it we transgress His will -- this is sin (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.
 - B. The Lord teaches us to pull the beams out of our own eyes.
 1. We are to judge ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5).
 2. However, we must judge ourselves by the Lord's standards (2 Corinthians 10:12, 18).
 - C. After judging ourselves by the Lord's standards we can see clearly to help others with their faults.
 - D. Additional instructions include:
 1. practicing the "golden rule" (Matthew 7:12)
 2. loving one another as Jesus commanded (John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
 3. provoking one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
 4. speaking properly (James 4:11-12; 2:12-13)
 5. obeying 1 Peter 3:8-11.