

Judging

Matt. 7:1-5

Introduction:

- A. People who know little else about the Bible, know this passage.
 - 1. Use it to sooth conscience by shifting guilt (“You’re just as bad, you judge”).
 - 2. Use it as excuse for avoiding unpleasant responsibilities:
 - a. Rebuking sinners (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:13).
 - b. Drawing lines of fellowship (2 John 9-11).
- B. People who want to do right often have problems with it.
 - 1. Told to “judge not” and to “judge” in the same verse (John 7:24)
 - 2. Need to study two kinds of judging taught in the New Testament:

Discussion:

I. Unrighteous Judging.

- A. Inconsistent or hypocritical judgment (Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 2:1-3, 21-23)
 - 1. Do the *same* things (Do not have to perfect to correct others)
 - 2. Use double standard (Jas. 3:17).
- B. Inconsiderate and unmerciful judgment (Luke 6:36, 37; Jas. 2:13).
 - 1. Judging without facts (Matt. 12:7) – facts of law or of the case.
 - a. Might be a valid explanation (cf. Man “stuck up” was on way to arrange father’s burial)
 - b. Might be a valid alternative (Could be this, but could be something else)
 - 2. Judging merely by appearance (cf. Man and his wheelbarrow).
 - 3. Judging absolutely without considering opportunity and ability
 - a. No one can be everywhere and do everything.
 - b. No one can know with certainty another’s opportunity and ability.
- C. Judging the heart or motives (1 Cor. 4:3-5).
 - 1. Can see what one does, and hear what he says, but why?
 - 2. Can misjudge ones motive for sin – “just didn’t want to do right” (cf. Rom 7:19-23)
 - 3. Can misjudge ones motive for right action – “just preaches for money or notoriety.”
 - 4. Actions may reveal motives in time, but must void hasty judgment of the heart.

II. Righteous Judging.

- A. It is righteous to judge in some matters (1 Cor. 6:1-8).
- B. It is righteous to judge teachers (1 John 4:1; Matt. 7:1, 15-20)
- C. It is righteous to judge some to unsound in the faith (Tit. 1:12-13)
- D. It is righteous to judge that some need discipline (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 12-13; 2 Thess. 3:6. 14).

Conclusion:

- A. We must not judge unrighteously.
- B. We must judge righteously.
- C. We must realize that God is the final judge.