

“Judge not, that you be not judged”

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Introduction: There are few passages as often misapplied and disobeyed as this one!

- A. We need to know and understand the meaning of this passage. **(Mt 7:1-5)**
 - 1. This passage does not eliminate God’s standard that He will use at the judgment! **(Jn 12:48; Jas 2:13)**
 - 2. God has never intended for man’s heart to be the standard!
(Num 15:39-40; Deut 12:8)
 - 3. Some have used this passage to avoid proper scrutiny!
- B. This is a passage that is easily and commonly violated by even strong Christians.
 - 1. We often make snap judgments based upon whim and emotion.
 - 2. It is so easy to write another man off and pat yourself on the back!
 - 3. We can easily fall into the snare that captured the Pharisees. **(Lk 18:9-11)**

I. The basis and motive of righteous judgment

- A. The world hates righteousness and the standard it holds forth. **(Jn 3:19-20)**
 - 1. Most people do not want anyone telling them what is wrong.
 - 2. Also people want the “support” of others in their actions. They do not want to go alone or even sense any opposition.
 - 3. This is why many attack the Christian. **(1 Pt 2:11-12)**
 - 4. Do you want to be a Christian? Be ready. Listen to our Lord! **(Jn 15:18-25)**
- B. There are circumstances where the Christian must speak out!
 - 1. In reaching the lost we must show others how to be right with God. **(Jn 8:24)**
 - 2. This involves the identification of sin and its consequences. **(Lk 3:7-8, 12-14)**
 - 3. We should teach God’s standard and let others apply it to their hearts. There are also times of specific rebuke! **(Mt 15:9-13)**
- C. There must be only one motive for righteous judgment --- *love of the souls of others.*
 - 1. It is not easy to “disrupt” the lives of others with “bad news” they do not know along with the marvelous “good news” of the gospel! **(Rom 1:16-18)**
 - 2. Because we know we cannot remain silent. **(2 Cor 5:13-15)**
 - 3. Everything we do is for the others good. With this spirit we can take the hurtful words and actions that are thrown our way! **(2 Tim 2:24-26)**
 - 4. Is this why we seek to learn about evangelism?

II. How Satan ensnares the “righteous”

- A. Often knowledgeable and experienced Christians get caught up in a sinful judging. **(Mt 7:1-4)**
 - 1. This is a kind of judging that proceeds from the wrong kind of heart.
 - 2. It is not a fair judging since God threatens to turn the same standard on us!
 - 3. This man cannot see himself and attempts to fool others as to who he is, thus he is a “hypocrite.”
- B. Satan’s goal is to blind us to our spiritual need and condition.

1. A common motive for sinful judgment is pride. **(Mk 15:10)**
- Mark 15:10** ¹⁰ For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of **envy**.
2. If one is “never wrong” then that one is full of pride.
 3. Like Satan, these ones use accusations to get their way with others.
- C. Consider the unreasonableness of the harsh judgments of these people.
1. People are attacked by arbitrary and changing standards. Often the true motives of the attacks are concealed to others. **(Lk 7:33-35)**
 2. Even when one knows the truth these tactics can be used when pride takes over.
- D. Good people are tempted to make snap judgments based on emotion.
1. Jesus warns us to use facts and principles in our judgment. **(Jn 7:24)**
 2. It is far too easy to put the worst interpretation on matters or to assume something that we do not know! What does love do? **(1 Cor 13:4-7)**
 3. How many of you had a discussion about your relatives after a reunion?
 4. Some people’s “evangelism” is a barrage of accusations designed to discredit others and praise those who submit to men. (Ex. Discussion list)
 5. The worst treatment I have received has come from those who say: “Judge not!!!”

III. Safeguards to righteous judgment

- A. Watch your heart. **(Mt 12:33-37)**
1. We need to constantly question our own motives.
 2. Those with wisdom, experience and knowledge are vulnerable! **(2 Cor 12:7)**
- B. Watch your tongue. **(Jas 3:2-6)**
1. If you use e-mail watch your words!
 2. There is a difference between struggling with your thoughts and speaking them!
- C. Do not judge in isolation or in a crowd!
1. It is so easy to develop handy scenarios to explain others we have little contact with! (Ex. Coming out of liberalism)
 2. It is easier to follow a crowd who rushes to a conclusion.
(Josh 22:10-12, 24-27)
 3. It is much harder to show courage and act as a Christian! Most easy answers about others are wrong! (“Walk a mile in my shoes”)
 4. Pagans sometimes have a greater sense of fairness than those who claim to know God! **(Acts 25:16)**
- D. Seek the council of those who love God. **(Prov 11:14)**
1. You may not always see the force of your words or your own blind spots!
(Ex. E-mail, Facebook debate)
 2. When you act with wisdom and love there will be proper action!

Conclusion: What will the judgment day be like for you? **(Jas 2:13)**