

STOP JUDGING and *Start Judging*

MATTHEW 7:1-6

1. Stop Judging

¹ Judge not,
that you be not judged,
² for you will be judged with the
judgment you judge,
and it will be measured to you with the
measure you measure.

2. Illustration

³ And why do you see the speck that is in your
brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in
your own eye?

⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me
take the speck out of your eye," and look – the
log [is] in your own eye?

⁵ You hypocrite! First take the log out of your
own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the
speck out of your brother's eye.

3. Start Judging

⁶ Do not give holy things to dogs
and do not throw your pearls before pigs,
lest they trample them under their feet
and turn to attack you.

Review Questions

Use the following questions for discussion with your spouse and children, in a Bible-study group, or in your Community Group:

1. Does Matthew 7:1 mean that no one can judge at any time? If not, what does it mean?
2. So who can judge other people? By what standard?
3. In what way does Matthew 7:6 instruct us to start judging?
4. Be honest, what specks in other people's eyes do you tend to judge the most? Make a list and confess this before the Lord.
5. What personal sin must you confess in order to be able to see clearly to help others?

Personal Application

Sometimes it is hard to know if you are judging others correctly. So before you evaluate someone else's life, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Have I remembered the depths of my own sinfulness?
2. Have I confessed my sin? Have I sought forgiveness from the Lord? Have I turned from that sin and gained victory over it?
3. Is the thing that I am judging simply a personal preference or a clear biblical issue?
4. Am I guessing what that person might be thinking? Am I guessing what his/her motives might be? Or have I observed an actual sin firsthand?

For Further Study

2 Samuel 12:1-7; Matthew 18:15; John 7:24; Romans 12:3; 14:10-13; Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 4:5-7; Philipians 3:2; and 1 John 4:1.

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