

November 15, 2015

## Judging Matthew 7:1-5

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Lord Jesus said, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” What does that \_\_\_\_\_ and is all judging \_\_\_\_\_? Today we’re going to explore what the \_\_\_\_\_ says about judging. Stay with us. We can’t do anything nobler than searching for God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

Raymond Kelcy, one of my Bible professors, used to quip that the two \_\_\_\_\_ known verses of the Bible were 1 Timothy 5:23 and Matthew 7:1. He said the \_\_\_\_\_ reprobate in society, a person who never went to church, would know these verses: “Drink a little \_\_\_\_\_ for your stomach’s sake” and “Judge ye not, that ye be not judged.” Of course, people who use these verses to justify their questionable lifestyles frequently haven’t taken time to find out what \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible says. Our world especially likes to quote “Judge ye not” and then make an absolute \_\_\_\_\_ against all judging. So opposed are they to judging, they themselves will condemn anyone who judges. They think it’s okay to condemn people who judge, not realizing that they’ve just \_\_\_\_\_ judges themselves.

Sin, however, is a \_\_\_\_\_; it’s evil and destructive. Failure to \_\_\_\_\_ against sin allows sin to grow and destroy lives, families, churches, and even whole societies. People who practice evil never want anyone to condemn them; they want complete \_\_\_\_\_. Some use this rule against judging to protect themselves from being \_\_\_\_\_. John 3:19-20 says, “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people \_\_\_\_\_ the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things \_\_\_\_\_ the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.” How do we \_\_\_\_\_ with this dilemma? Do we remain \_\_\_\_\_ about evil or do we \_\_\_\_\_ out against it? What did Jesus mean when He told us not to judge?

### **Today, we’re reading from the Words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:1-5.**

When we study a passage, let’s consider the \_\_\_\_\_ problems that the Lord Jesus faced. When Jesus spoke these words, judging others had become \_\_\_\_\_. People were condemning others not only because they failed to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ but also because they failed to keep the oral traditions of the Pharisees. They were assuming the place of God by making their \_\_\_\_\_ laws and then condemning others for not keeping them.

The Pharisees and the scribes were famous for hanging a mountain by a thread—that is, building a large set of rules out of a simple \_\_\_\_\_. Many of these laws had nothing to do with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the passage. For instance, Exodus 23:19 says, “You are not to boil a kid in the milk of its mother.” The Jews developed an entire \_\_\_\_\_ of what was and was not “kosher” from this passage and determined never to mix any meat with dairy products. The original law came because \_\_\_\_\_ Canaanites were boiling goat kids in their mothers’ milk. The Israelites of Moses’ day knew what it meant, but later generations out of misguided \_\_\_\_\_ took it to an extreme. They went beyond the \_\_\_\_\_ intent of the law and “hung a mountain on a thread.”

The Pharisees who held to these \_\_\_\_\_ traditions began to judge people not on the basis of the original law but on their \_\_\_\_\_–\_\_\_\_\_ applications of that law. They developed a system of self-righteousness and self-justification. In their \_\_\_\_\_ the Pharisees became judgmental of anyone who didn't live up to their high standards. They bullied the common people with their self-righteous attitudes and condemned anyone who didn't \_\_\_\_\_ their traditions. Jesus wasn't arguing against making any judgments at all but against making \_\_\_\_\_ judgments on the basis of human traditions. They wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the speck out of others' eyes and didn't realize the log that was in their own eye.

The Pharisees showed \_\_\_\_\_ compassion or mercy on anyone who wasn't one of them. When it came to \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as yourself, the Pharisees thought only of other Pharisees, only they were their neighbors. James 2:12-13 says, "So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment." **Read James 4:11-12.**

In judging others, we may not know all the \_\_\_\_\_. Just because we think some act is all \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean God approves of it, and just because we think some act is \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean that God disapproves of it. God sees and knows the \_\_\_\_\_, something we may not see. **Read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:4-5.** Many things are \_\_\_\_\_ left in God's hands. "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9).

The apostle Paul dealt with a similar type of \_\_\_\_\_ judging in Romans 14. Some weaker brothers, whose consciences were tender but untaught, were judging others who felt the \_\_\_\_\_ to eat meat sacrificed to idols. Those who were eating that meat felt \_\_\_\_\_ for those who wouldn't eat. Paul instructs both groups to \_\_\_\_\_ judging the other. "Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand" (Romans 14:4). Christians must be \_\_\_\_\_, in such matters of opinion, not to judge. He said in verse thirteen, "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this – not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way."

Some think that making any \_\_\_\_\_ judgment is arrogant and intolerant. Many people today want to \_\_\_\_\_ moral judgments altogether and permit people to do whatever they \_\_\_\_\_. Many are asking, "Who's to say what is right or wrong?" When they say this, they show that they're ignoring both God and the \_\_\_\_\_ that evil does in this world. So, we ask, "Is it ever right to judge?"

The Lord Jesus said, "Do not judge so that you will not be judged" (Matthew 7:1). Some quote this passage thinking this is \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus said on the matter. They don't want anyone to judge anyone for any \_\_\_\_\_. But there's more to \_\_\_\_\_. Consider Matthew 7:6: "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces." Who are the dogs and the swine? We must use our discretion to \_\_\_\_\_ who the dogs and the swine are. Jesus teaches us to watch out for temptation and to know \_\_\_\_\_ when we see it. He also said, "Beware of the \_\_\_\_\_ prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-16). We have to judge who is a \_\_\_\_\_. Life \_\_\_\_\_ making some judgments; and frankly, we cannot escape them.

Even those who say, “don’t judge” are not consistent. The \_\_\_\_\_ to be non-judgmental, the condemnation of judging, is itself a moral judgment. One can hardly keep from judging if one becomes a \_\_\_\_\_. People tend to downplay the sins that they commit, but they have a very \_\_\_\_\_ perspective when they have been sinned against. “My” harmless \_\_\_\_\_ about you is no big deal, but “your” cruel \_\_\_\_\_ about me is unforgiveable. People think that way. Drugs are a victimless \_\_\_\_\_ until one of “my” loved ones overdoses. I may support the sexual revolution until someone else sleeps with “my” wife. People’s attitudes change greatly when they become the offended rather than making \_\_\_\_\_ as an offender. Reality \_\_\_\_\_ us up.

It’s naïve to think right and wrong don’t \_\_\_\_\_. Children can’t always distinguish right from wrong. The Hebrew writer worried about Christians who weren’t maturing in their \_\_\_\_\_ as they should, people who didn’t know God’s Word. **Read Hebrews 5:12-14.** They were in \_\_\_\_\_ because they didn’t know good from evil.

Any parent struggling to rear his children knows the \_\_\_\_\_ judgments he must make for the sake of the children. He knows too that his task is to \_\_\_\_\_ the children to make right decisions. Making judgments is a \_\_\_\_\_ part of growing up. Fools resist ever making moral judgments. The wise realize that moral judgments keep them \_\_\_\_\_ from evil and harm. Proverbs 22:3 says, “The prudent sees the evil and he hides himself, But the naive go on, and are \_\_\_\_\_ for it.” Right and wrong matter because they \_\_\_\_\_ in different directions. Doing good will \_\_\_\_\_, while doing evil \_\_\_\_\_ lives. Everyone should know that.

If we listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of listening to God, we’ll find that our morals today seem to be turned upside down. We \_\_\_\_\_ in moral chaos and confusion. **Read Isaiah 5:20-21.** Our culture has \_\_\_\_\_ God and His morality, and they have rewritten the moral laws to suit themselves. It’s made good into evil and evil into good. All this confusion has \_\_\_\_\_ our society’s moral strength and moral courage; and it will destroy the fabric of our society and lead future generations into misery and loneliness. God grieves over those who are unwilling to make judgments about good and bad because they \_\_\_\_\_ a permissiveness that infects the young and the weak with diseased values and morals.

Jesus described how we are to judge, “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24). Jesus knew appearances could deceive, and so he cautioned people to make righteous judgments based upon the Scriptures and based upon the \_\_\_\_\_. The Scriptures are the basis for what is right and wrong, and facts tell us whether or not God’s laws are transgressed. Some people say Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ judged anyone; but Jesus passed judgment on Judas, calling him the son of perdition (John 17:12) and stating that it would have been \_\_\_\_\_ for him not to have been born (Mark 14:21). Jesus took a whip, poured out the coins, and overturned the tables, and drove the money changers out of the temple in John 2:14-16. In Matthew 23, Jesus pronounced eight \_\_\_\_\_ upon the scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites. Jesus also condemned Jezebel of Thyatira and her followers in Revelation 2:20-23, and He rebuked the others in that church for \_\_\_\_\_ her. Second Timothy 4:8 calls Jesus the “righteous judge.”

Jesus didn’t judge with a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, for in spite of it all he loved Judas and even washed his feet with the other apostles. Jesus judged him on the basis of the \_\_\_\_\_. Judas was a \_\_\_\_\_ (John

12:6), and for thirty pieces of silver he gave a betrayal kiss to his Master. Unfortunately, some people, unlike Jesus, jump too \_\_\_\_\_ to mistaken judgments. They judge unfairly or unrighteously \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures are examined or the facts are known. Nevertheless, when the Scriptures are clear and the facts are known we \_\_\_\_\_ make judgments.

Paul led the way in judging the man who was \_\_\_\_\_ with his father's wife. He even rebuked the church at Corinth for \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with the wicked man. He said, "You have become arrogant, and have not \_\_\_\_\_ instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst" (1 Corinthians 5:2). He made it clear, "I . . . have already \_\_\_\_\_ him who has so committed this, as though I were present." When the church was assembled, Paul commanded them "to deliver such a one to Satan." He knew that if he allowed this man's sin to go on that a "little leaven leavens the \_\_\_\_\_ lump of dough" (1 Corinthians 5:6). So, his counsel was "Remove the wicked man from among yourselves" (verse 13). Judging is necessary when the sin threatens the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

The judgments of God are not my judgments or yours; they're God's judgments. God is God, and we aren't. If we desire to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, we ought to honor His commandments and judgments. Jesus said, "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I \_\_\_\_\_?" (Luke 6:46). The Lord Jesus will judge us righteously and fairly, but we must also commit ourselves to Him strongly enough to accept that what He teaches is \_\_\_\_\_. God is more holy, more wise, and more understanding than we are. His judgments are \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous altogether. Let's trust His \_\_\_\_\_ and follow Him. When we \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, we know we're going in the right direction

Many people, even some preachers, have chosen non-judgmentalism as their \_\_\_\_\_ and they've remained silent about sin and remained silent about our \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation. When Christians remain silent, they can be sure the \_\_\_\_\_ will speak out. When Christians remain silent, \_\_\_\_\_ does as it pleases. When we ignore evil and immorality, we provide little \_\_\_\_\_ to the weak, the naïve, and the young. We need bold watchmen who will \_\_\_\_\_ the walls from the encroaching enemy and who will sound the alarm. We can't afford silence about sin. Is it ever \_\_\_\_\_ to judge? Yes, it's right; and sometimes it's mandatory.

The world loves for Christianity to \_\_\_\_\_ nothing and to \_\_\_\_\_ nothing. The world welcomes a \_\_\_\_\_ that's emptied of theological content and morality. But a gospel without teaching and morality isn't really \_\_\_\_\_. The gospel found in the New Testament emphasizes sin, judgment, repentance, and the cross. If God doesn't condemn sin, then we wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ a Savior; but the ugliness and the horror of sin calls out for our Savior. We'll never see the beauty of \_\_\_\_\_ until we see the ugliness of sin, and we'll never see the enormity of God's \_\_\_\_\_ until we see sin as our enemy.

Come to the Lord Jesus to find the truth, to find what is moral and holy, and to find the love that saves us from the perils of sin. Hell is real; and if we don't \_\_\_\_\_ to God's grace for freedom from sin and from the perils of this life, then we'll bear the everlasting penalty for that sin in the life to come. Place your trust in the Lord. Out of love turn from everything evil. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ demands that we leave the wrong and turn to what is right. Then be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of your faith. Baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of our sins. It unites us with Christ and causes us to be born again free from our sin. Oh my friend, why not come to the Lord today and be baptized?

