



Jesus continues to instruct His disciples on how to live as subjects in the Kingdom of Heaven

This might be the most well-known verse by non-Christians

Judging Others

*See Luke 6:37-42

Connotation

What does Jesus mean by "Judge not"?

→ He **cannot** be prohibiting moral discernment (i.e., judging right and wrong)

Mt 7:5 - "take the speck out of your brother's eye"

Mt 7:6 - Identifying others as "pigs" or "dogs"

Mt 7:15-20 - Identifying false prophets

1Co 5:1-5 - Casting out the one from the assembly who is sexually immoral

Gal 1:8-9 - Testing whether a message is consistent with that delivered by the apostles of Christ

Phil 1:9-10 - Prays for love abounding with knowledge and discernment.

1Jn 4:1 - "test the spirits to see whether they are from God"

Jesus is prohibiting hypercriticism and hypocrisy:

- A critical spirit
- A readiness to blame others
- Rash or hasty judgements
- Magnifying the errors of others
- Not having empathy toward others
- Judging others for the same things we do
- Exalting ourselves while looking down on others

We must realize that we are **all equal** before God

→ **Romans 14:10-13; James 4:11-12; 2Sam 12:1-12**

Why do we want to judge others?

→ To make us feel better about ourselves!

¹"**Judge not**, that **you be not judged**."

(2) God will judge us the same way we judge others:
Mk 4:24; Mt 5:7; 6:12, 14-15

²For with the **judgment you pronounce you will be judged**, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

(3) We should know our own sins better than anyone else's (**Rom 2:1**)

³Why 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) It's **hypocritical** to focus on other's sins more than our own

⁴Or how can you say to your brother, '**Let me take the speck out of your eye**,' when there is the **log in your own eye**?

(5a) We can't help others until we've first addressed our own sin

⁵You **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**.

(5b) Jesus calls us to help others rather than judge them
Matthew 18:15-20; Gal 6:1-5

⁶"Do not give **dogs** what is holy, and do not throw your **pearls** before **pigs**, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:1-6

Credentials

Why should we not judge others?

→ If we are in danger of being judged, then it means that **we are not the judge!**

Why are we not the Judge?

- We are **NOT** qualified
- We don't know other's heart or motive
- There is only one Lawgiver and Judge (**James 4:11-12**)
- A servant can only be judged by their master (**Romans 14:4**)
- We are guilty of the same things (or worse) we identify in others (**2 Sam 12:1-12; Rom 2:1**)

→ See the speck / log illustration in vv. 3-5

→ Jesus is using an absurd contrast to make His point

Hypercriticism: excessively and unreasonably critical, especially of small faults.

Hypocrisy: pretending to be what one is not or to believe what one does not.



Contingency | What about those who refuse to be helped?

→ "Dogs" should **NOT** be thought of as household pets: in scripture they are normally wild, associated with what is unclean, despised

See **1 Sam 17:43; 24:14; 1 Kings 14:11; 21:19; 2 Kings 8:13; Job 30:1; Prov 26:11; Ecc1 9:4; Isa 66:3; Matt 15:27; Philippians 3:2; Rev 22:15**

→ Pigs (**Lev 11:7**) and Dogs (**Lev 11:27**) serve together as a picture of what is vicious, unclean, and abominable (**2 Peter 2:22**).

We CANNOT force the Gospel on others

→ God has given us the ability to **choose**, and many will choose to ignore His plan. We cannot choose for them.

Consider **7:13-14 (two paths/gates)** & **7:24-27 (two foundations)**

Do not engage those who treat the Gospel with contempt

→ **Prov 9:8; 23:9; Matthew 10:14**

