

# Why Do You Judge People?

Matthew 7:1

# I. Two Assumptions On The Passage

1. Assume **ALL** judgment must be left with God (period).
2. Assume **NO** judgment can be left with man (period).

I. Two Assumptions On The Passage

II. What Is Wrong With  
The 'Usual' View Of Mt.7:1?

# 1. The accuser condemns himself

- Joe condemns Jim for 'judging' others.
- Joe argues that it is wrong to argue.

## The Position:

It is wrong to judge  
[correct] people in sin.

## Compare:

It is wrong to say  
the word 'judge'

## 2. Would cancel God's judgment

- If first part is absolute (never judge)  
... so is second (no future judgment)

**1** Judge not [never!] . . .

**2** that you be not judged  
[never!]

### 3. Contradicts context (Mt.7:1-16)

- Near context:

- 3-4: see speck in another's eye; overlook log in own; faultfinder
- 5a: hypercritical against others' sins; ignore own
- 5b: kingdom citizens must deal with sin in others
- 6, 15, 16: requires judgment

### 3. Contradicts the context

- Near context
- **Remote context:**
  - Mt.22, Sadducees
  - Mt.23, Pharisees
  - Mt.24, Jewish nation
  - Mt.25, all nations
  - Ac.13:46, self-judges
  - Ro.3:1-8, their condemnation is just
  - Rv.2:2, tested...found them liars



## 4. Prevent us from obeying Lord and apostles

- Jn.7:24
- 1 Co.5:1-5 . . . 12-13

Corinthians were non-judging  
–as world wants us to be.

Lord condemned them for it.

## 5. Encourages sin and false doctrines

- Child who is never corrected . . .

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world . . . <sup>5</sup>They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. <sup>6</sup>We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error – 1 Jn.4.

## 6. Forbids love of erring brothers

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted – Gal.6:1

## 6. Forbids love of erring brothers

<sup>19</sup> Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins – James 5

I. Two Assumptions On The Passage

II. What Is Wrong With The 'Usual' View . . . ?

III. What Does The  
Passage Teach?

# Problem:

Righteous man may  
become self-righteous.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. <sup>2</sup> But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things – Ro.2

# Prohibition:

'Judge not'

Tattler at school...

Mt.7 forbids hypercritical spirit,  
destructive criticism . . .

Assumes worst instead of learning  
the facts

Hypocrite (5) – great pretender

# Prohibition:

'Judge not'

Hypocrite (5) – great pretender. Why?

1. Shows himself superior to object of his attack.
2. Enjoys cutting someone down to size.
3. Overlooks his own sins.
4. Appears holy. Mt.5:20



## Prevention:

'That you be not judged'

Way we judge determines way God judges us (v.2). Cf. 6:14-15.

And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? – Ro.2:3

John 7:48-49

## Purpose:

'Examine self' (3-4)

Eye: most sensitive part of body?

Jude 22-23

The speck must first be removed (3-4) but NOT by doctor with log in own eye.

# Procedure:

'First . . . Then . . . ' (5)

First: remove beam from own eye.

- Mt.26:6-13

Then: eye health (four words)

3: look: stare at his  
fault; take notice

3: consider: observe  
carefully (not)

4: look! behold!  
[Self-examination]

5: see clearly:  
stare...look intently

1. David clearly sees sins in others; not in himself, 2 Sm.12:1-7.

2. Later: Ps.51:3 . . . 13

a. Clearly sees his sins

b. Helps other sinners

First: r

- Mt

Then: e,

e.

3: look: stare at his fault; take notice

4: look! behold!  
[Self-examination]

3: con sider: observe carefully (not)

5: see clearly:  
stare...look intently

# Parallel:

1 Co.13

Judgmental spirit is opposite of love

Some callously judged Paul, 1 Co.4:3-5

# Analysis of the Text

<sup>1</sup>Judge not, that you be not judged.

- Context: Chap.6, negative attitude...
- Bad habit: hasty, negative judgments
- 'Do not judge' – pres. tense
- 'That...not judged' – point action
- Not telling us to quit thinking (v.6)

# Analysis of the Text

<sup>1</sup>Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

- For: the reason
  - Chrysostom
  - We are held to same standard we impose on others
- Measure: instrument for measuring

# Analysis of the Text

<sup>1</sup>Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

<sup>3</sup>And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

- Speck: small piece of straw, chaff...
- Plank: heavy timber, beam of wood.
- Do not consider: finds small wrong in brother compared to sin God sees in him.



# Analysis of the Text

<sup>1</sup>Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

<sup>3</sup>And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

<sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

- How can you say?: cannot be taken seriously
- Rebukes hypocritical judging (5) – **what the 'do not judge' people do!**

# Analysis of the Text

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- First . . . Then . . . Conclusions:

# Analysis of the Text

<sup>5</sup>Hypocrite! First take the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck from your brother's eye.

- First remove plank...then... See clearly...

1. Remove speck from **brother's** eye (ct. v.3)
2. One brother to help another (**most ignore this fact**)
3. Even **smallest** defect must be corrected
4. Using Scripture to correct others is not my judging, but the **Lord's**. 1 Co.7:10