



Sermon on the Mount

Judge Not

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Jesus continues with His Sermon upon the Mount.

✝ Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. ² For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 7:1-2 NASB

We have all heard a version or two of this old saying:

“Do not judge someone until after you have walked a mile in their shoes.”

Likewise the “Mishnah” (collected Jewish oral traditions) says this:

“Do not judge your fellow until you are in his position.” Aboth 2:5

Jesus is clearly instructing that we are not to harshly criticize nor relentlessly mock or tirelessly gossip about another. Especially when we do not fully comprehend the circumstances of the situation of those that we are condemning.

Besides as we have already learned that all Judgement has already been given by Heavenly Father unto Christ our Lord. John 5:22

Again by Scripture Jesus is either your Savior or your Judge.

So Why? Should we overly concern ourselves criticizing the personal details of the lives of others when whatever the happenstance unknown to us is obviously between them and the Lord.

Yes, Jesus did, still does, & will continue to be everyone’s Judge.

Those in His denial, in pride, greed, envy, slander, arrogance, cruel, selfish, vile, and the like- Jesus especially condemned those whom He encountered who were egotistically preying upon the Praying, or ruthlessly subjugating the downtrodden.

Christ Messiah particularly protected those helpless and despised by those in power.

Jesus is the final Judge above all others while He has also just declared that whomever dares to judge another better be aware that He- Jesus, will judge our actions & motivations by our very own standards. So take care.

Does this mean we are to overlook nor not punish or endorse blatant evil Sin or vice- of course not.

What this means is that we are to trust that GOD will handle now or even when someone passes those within a legal but immoral situation.

As in no one gets away with anything people will answer before Christ in this life or the next.

So we should be cautious and patient while in Prayer for someone in rebellion to GOD’S Laws.

Remember giving advice of Christ is already a reminder of Sin & repeated confrontation never wins.

Even when we are showing loving kindness we must include compassionate understanding because we too have many of our very own faults. It is easy to be seen as having a Holier than thou attitude.

Continuing

✝ Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Matthew 7:3-5 NIV

Here the NIV does well at conveying meaning with what many Biblical Expositors as in those whom teach and preach extensively for the gaining of the full exact meaning of a Scriptural Passage.

Exactly what the NIV picks up well on here is;
that Jesus's Words do in fact fall back upon His human upbringing.

Get that?

Jesus is using His experience from His formative years under His human step father Joseph who was a carpenter. Those words from His life experiences just come out.

When Christ our Lord was thinking of words to use for this metaphor,
He reverted to what He knew- Carpentry.

Jesus said the equivalent of a speck of saw dust as compared to what is a full plank of wood.

Every Bible version or translation of these verses always employ a very small piece of wood being in someone's eye supposedly not as far along with their relationship with GOD as is the one seemingly correcting them.

This correcting believer falsely presumes themselves to be superior in their Faith as compared to the person with a spec in their eye. Which of course represents some minor Sin in their lives.

Jesus points out here that when any of us self suppose to be Spiritually superior to an individual with a minor Sin, that we must be very careful that we ourselves are not actually harboring an even greater Sin in our own lives. Represented as a much larger portion of wood in our eye.

Christ the Lord Himself calls any of us Hypocritical if we do this.

How easy it is to see the faults or mistakes of others while not acknowledging or recognizing our own. Being Hypocritical is advising or attempting to help others without first improving ourselves.

The meaning of these words of our Christ are very clear; first we must examine our own lives being our actions deeds and even our motivations before we dare to chastise or criticize or correct another with our "helpful" suggestions.

You know; how many times have each and every one of us ever been criticized with little suggestions that we should do this or that. What this really is- is Judging.

The Creator of the Universe has just called everyone out on this back handed way of Judging others.

Now as we go forward the Apostle Paul gives to us a fine summary as for Why?

We as Christians are not to be Judgmental of another brother or sister in Christ as long as someone is not in violation of an obviously Biblical Sin. Here the exacting King James version serves us quite well:

✝ But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

¹¹ For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

¹³ Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. Romans 14:10-13

This is known for the believer as the "Bema" or reward Judgement of Christ. (those Saved as in born again)
Notice Paul states clear that anyone whom causes or tempts someone either an unrepentant Sinner or especially a Believer to commit a Sin- should be held accountable even by us the Church of Christ.
As in we are supposed to Judge those causing the reasons for people to Sin. Especially other Christians.

Now Christ in Jesus presses on, yes tis true we are not to Judge nor are we to criticize- yet now the Lord provides His Holy advice for us in presenting His Gospel unto those who cherish their Sin.

Continuing

✠ Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you. Matthew 7:6 RSV

This one for me has always been particularly hard to comprehend personally especially after having grown up here in America during the last great revival of Christ while having free speech for everyone. First off we must realize that Jesus was speaking unto a Jewish people in the first century conquered by Rome & legally placed under the strict care of a self pious religious elite the Pharisee's, who would quickly excommunicate as in shun anyone whom they deemed to be a threat or in rebellion as for their authority. So if presenting the deeper sacred truths of the Gospel unto a committed Pagan Roman in Jesus Time was not dangerous enough, it was far worse to be seen as blaspheming by the Pharisee's.

Remember each Imperial Rome & the hypocritical Pharisees paid for eyes and ears everywhere e.g. Judas Iscariot, making it possible for anyone to tattle tale- to secretly inform unto authority for reward or favor.

First for not giving to "dogs" what is Holy: (unclean)

Dogs will whine and howl, bark or growl, repeating the same learned behavior over and again without remorse or hesitation in order to selfishly achieve as in getting what it is that they truly desire.

In the Middle East at this time it was common to see stray dogs living in the streets outside of peoples homes begging for scraps because they were considered to be unclean. Especially true in Israel.

Meaning the social term of being called a "dog" was actually an insult, stating that people such as these lived in squalor (either- physical, emotional, intellectual, social, financial, spiritual, or criminal etc.) intending; they scavenged or savaged their existence rather unholy be it physically or Spiritually day by day. Even if they were wealthy or powerful they were considered to be heathen in character or by conduct.

While of course calling an individual a "swine": (unclean & forbidden)

Was intended to infer when someone is aggressively hostile or living a forbidden filthy lifestyle.

Be it emotional intellectual or Spiritual as in they are totally committed in Sin.

Meaning they will turn and attack those presenting the Gospel light of truth unto them.

(e.g. John the Baptist/Queen Herodias adulteress wife of King Herod Antipas)

Christ compares someone wallowing in mire as like a person living joyfully within lusts of corruption.

Pigs were also considered to be unclean Biblically, as they were forbidden by Moses because they do not re chew their cud which is technically referred to as "rumination."

Ruminating species such as cattle, goats, sheep, deer were easier to keep in the hot Middle East.

Further they could feed upon fiber sources that we human beings do not or can not consume.

Meaning herders did not have to feed their livestock from their own sustenance supply for survival.

The Apostle Peter who was present at Christ's Sermon explains further: 2Peter 2:20-22 RSV

✠ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, The dog turns back to his own vomit, and the sow is washed only to wallow in the mire.

Christ advises us not to share His pearls of wisdom- His timeless precious Spiritual treasures of a deeper Faith found only with Prayer, and understood by the study of GOD'S Word guided by the Holy Spirit, with those who are not as of yet ready to value them.

Nor with anyone who is publicly known to be hostile to Faith.

When someone has not even found Faith in the Gospel, then Why? should we strive to present deeper meanings of Eschatology, Theology, Apologetics, or even Doctrine unto a hostile receiver.

No amount of Biblical knowledge or even historical facts will persuade a person committed to Sin.

These understandings are not to be shared with people whose behavior is more like a scavenging dog than an faithful attentive friend, nor with those who do not or will not ruminate as in to thoughtfully consider what you are presenting because they are fully "in" as for their Sin.

When a truly sinful person has openly considered and dismissed GOD'S Word & Law, eventually they will mock and deny as in deflecting their Sins ultimate ramifications of death and Hell's fire.

They will delight in belittling or even harming in some fashion the person presenting Christ's Gospel.

Finally as they reject and dispute you what they are really doing is rebelling against GOD.

As in denying His authority over them.

So not to present GOD'S pearls of Salvation and wisdom before dogs or swine actually serves to protect the faithful presenter and keeps Sacred not vilified the esteemed Holy Truth of GOD.

The very same precious pearls from GOD which condemn those choosing to remaining within their Sin.