

The Sinner's Favorite Verse – Jesus Said “Judge Not”

Matt. 7:1-5

Intro. Matt. 7:1-5

•Matt. 7:1-5 → Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

I. Times This Verse Is Misused...

- When the exclusive nature of God's way of salvation is taught. (Eph. 4:4-6; Acts 4:11-12; Jn. 14:6; Matt. 7:13-14)
- When religious error is identified and refuted. (Heb. 13:9; I Jn. 4:1; Jude 3; Matt. 15:13-14)
- When immorality is condemned. (I Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Matt. 15:18-20; 19:3-9)
- When sinners are told to repent and be baptized to be saved. (Rom. 3:23; Rom. 1:16-17; Acts 2:36-38; Gal. 3:26-27; Mk. 16:16)
- Why such an abuse of the passage?
 - It's none of your business
 - Failure to consider the context
 - The desire for an unlimited prohibition against making any kind of judgment or discernment in religious matters.
- Jesus also said, "...judge righteous judgment." (Jn. 7:24)

II. Taking The Verse In Its Context

- There are judgments, discernments, that must be made:
 - Hogs and dogs. (v-6; Acts 13:46; Phil. 3:2)
 - A discernment of ways. (vv. 13-14)
 - An evaluation of teachers and teaching. (vv. 15-20)
 - The works of the Lord. (vv. 21-23)
 - Even to identify the speck. (vv. 1-5)

III. Taking The Verse In Its Larger Context

- Matt. 18:15-17 – in reconciling differences.
- I Cor. 5:5,9 – to discern good and evil; to discipline (II Thess. 3:6)
- I Cor. 6:5 – necessary to judge between brethren
- I Tim. 1:18-20 – judgment exercised with regard to Hymanaeus and Alexander. (II Tim. 2:16-18; 4:14; Matt. 7:15)
- Jesus made judgments regarding the scribes and Pharisees. (Matt. 23)

IV. A Self Contradicting Statement

- Those who misuse do the very thing that they say no one can do.
- If Matt. 7:1 teaches that we can never address, rebuke or reprove wrong, how can they use Matt. 7:1 to teach that those who do so are wrong without doing the very thing that they are against?
- Like saying, "no absolute truth".

V. Circumstances That Require Judging

- In the sense of discernment, discriminating between right and wrong, the exposure of evil, helping sinners to recognize and escape the darkness in which they walk.
- Jn. 7:24 – "judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment"

–Forbids one kind of judgment -- superficial

–Commands another – righteous

•Some circumstances that demand: (Rev. 2:2; II Jn. 10-11; I Pet. 2:14; Phil. 1:9-10)

VI. *Marks of Righteous Judgment*

•Based on more than external appearance. (I Sam. 17:6; Js. 2:1-13; I Sam. 1:12-13)

•Not stereotypical judgment. (Jn. 1:46)

•Based on God's standard. (Phil. 1:9-10; Heb. 4:12)

•Recognizing our own accountability. (Rom. 14:12)

•Cleansing self first. (Matt. 7:5; LK. 17:3)

VII. *Judge Not...What Is Jesus Condemning Here?*

•Making Judgments that are...

–*Merciless*

•Absent forbearance, longsuffering. (Matt. 7:2)

–*Hypocritical*

•Judging others with a standard that we do not apply to selves or those close to us. (Rom. 2:1)

–*Self-righteous*

•That does not first examine and seek to correct self. (Lk.18:11; Matt. 23:2-3; II Cor. 13:5)