

The Real Jesus | Eliminating a Critical Attitude | Matt. 7:1-6

Stop Criticizing Others (v 1-2)

v 1 Judge not, that you be not judged.

- The word judge is κρίνω - krino (to separate, to pronounce an opinion of right and wrong). It has 15 to 20 different usages in Scripture so that is why it is so pertinent to figure out what context Jesus is using it in here.

- There are two ways to judge: criticize (in a self-righteous way...the way that Jesus is directly attacking here), or use judgment to benefit the kingdom, to push truth.

We see this presented in various ways in Scripture:

1. 1 John 4:1 - δοκιμάζω - dokimazo - to put to proof, to prove

2. 1 Cor 6:5 - διακρίνω - diakrino - to distinguish

3. 1 Cor 9:3 - ανακρίνω - anakrino - to investigate, scrutinize

v 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

- This word measure (μέτρον - metron) means rule or standard of judgment. The standard that we hold others to is the same exact standard God is going to hold us to. So what should we really be focused on?

Start Evaluating Yourself (v 3-6)

v 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 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? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- One of the most famous passages in all of Scripture tells us to evaluate ourselves before we go around holding people to a specific standard.

- 2 Cor 13:5 "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified." πειράζω - peirazo - scrutinize, test, prove

Speck (κάρφος - karpfos) implies a twig or a piece of straw. Compare that to a beam (literally a beam, a 2x4).

- We must also look at the two verbs used here: Look implies making an observation with the eye where as consider means to think through, to consider attentively.

- In order to be able to judge in a healthy way, to discern, test, critique, deliberate, we must first evaluate ourselves.

v 6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

- Dogs were looked down upon in those days. They were mongrels, mangy, smelly, unclean scavengers. And according to the OT way of giving a sacrifice, if there was anything left over after it had been burned on an altar, it certainly wouldn't be thrown to the dogs. Jesus is saying you don't give holy things to dogs, to those who won't appreciate it, to those who won't understand it.

- The same things apply to swine. Swine were detestable creatures, unclean, of no real good use in Jewish culture. So no one in their right mind is going to throw something priceless (pearls), here representing the Word of God, to something that doesn't really want it.