

Bible Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-7

Samuel Anoints David

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Matthew 7:1-16

Judging Others

7 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

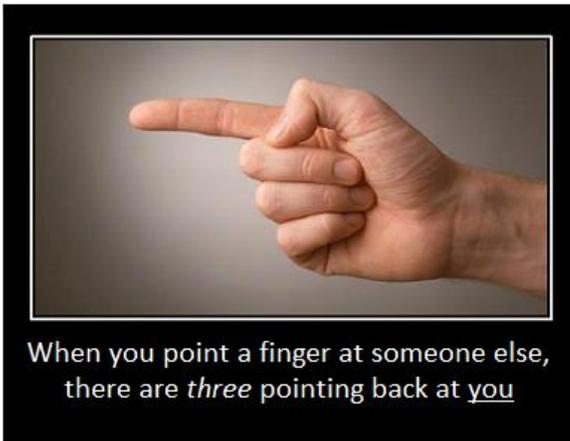
³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

⁶ "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Intro

My brother in-law uses this saying a lot "when you point a finger at someone else - remember there are three fingers pointing back at you"

[PowerPoint 1-pointing]



- It can be **easy to judge people without ever taking a look at ourselves** - can't it?
- And it can be **easy to judge people on what they "look" like**
- We might see **someone carrying a bit of weight** - and decide they have no self-control - when in fact they could have a **medical condition** that prevents them losing weight - or they take **medication** which causes them to gain weight
- We might **see someone who looks sad or grumpy all the time** - and decide they're **not worth bothering with** - when in fact they are **struggling with a big hurt in their life** and would love a friend to talk to

- We might **see someone who comes across loud and confident** - and decide they are a **big-head or a show-off** - when in fact they're **really insecure** - and their **loudness is just a front** - so people don't know they are hurting
- Or we might look at **what people wear** - and say - "not that dress again" - or "not that shirt again" - but we don't know their story.
- As the saying goes - you can't judge a book by its cover

[PowerPoint 2-Cover]



Judging outwardly (1 Samuel 16:1-7)

- Which brings us to our OT passage - from 1 Samuel 16:1-7 [please turn there]
- God sent the prophet **Samuel** to a man named **Jesse** in **Bethlehem**
- Samuel was to **anoint one of Jesse's sons** as the new King of Israel - to **replace King Saul**
- When Samuel saw Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, standing before him - he **seemed** such a **fine specimen of a man** - that **Samuel assumed this would be the one** - **God would anoint as the next King**
- But **God had other ideas**

- See v7
- The Lord says to Samuel

[PowerPoint 2-1 Sam 16:7]

- Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart**

1 Samuel 16:7

Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the **heart**



- You see **God looks at a person's inside** - their **heart** - not their outward appearance
- That's what Jesus has been talking about throughout His **Sermon on the Mount**
- He's been **talking about our hearts** (our inner-most being) -
- He's continually asking - Are our hearts right towards God and towards others?

[PowerPoint 4-Heading]

Our Judgement of Ourselves (Matthew 7:1-6)

- You see there were a group of religious people in Jesus' time - called the **Scribes and Pharisees** who were **self-righteous**

- Now remember - being **righteous** - means being **declared right with God** - and **approved by God**
- But these **religious guys** had **declared themselves** - **right with God** and approved by God - that's what being self-righteous means
- So, because they were self-righteous - they **played the part of God**
- And they **judged themselves** incorrectly and also **judged other people harshly** and unfairly and they even had a **false thinking about God's judgment** - they never for a moment thought God might judge them!
- Which brings us to Matthew 7:1-6
- We should **point out** before we go any further that sometimes this passage is **used incorrectly**
 - It does not mean that we **suspend all criticism of others**
 - It does not mean we **turn a blind eye to people's faults and sins** - and pretend to not notice them
 - It does not mean we **stop trying to discern between truth and error**
 - And it does not mean we **stop trying to discern between good and evil**
- How do we know that Jesus doesn't mean any of that?
- Because if we behave like that - we **wouldn't be honest or loving**- and in fact it would be hypocritical - and we would be going against all that **Jesus has taught so far in the Sermon on the Mount** - and our righteousness would be no better than the Pharisees
- So, let's look at what Jesus really means

- In Matthew 7:1-6 - **Jesus is saying - true judgment begins with ourselves - and he gives the reasons why**

1. We will be judged (v1)

[PowerPoint 4a-we will be judged]

- Firstly - true judgment begins with ourselves - because - we will be judged
- see verse 1
- The tense of the verb "you will be judged" signifies a once and for all final judgment
- **Romans 14:10-12** - *says one day we will all have to stand before God's judgment seat - and kneel before Him - and give an account of ourselves*
- So what Jesus is saying is - remember if you judge others - don't forget God will judge you one day
- So, it's much better if we first judge ourselves then we are preparing for the final judgment when we face God.
- How might we judge ourselves?
- Now clearly, **we can't act as the supreme judge of all things - only God can do that!**
- So, it might be **helpful to use a different phrase**
- The **Greek word** used for **judge here - also means to question behaviour**
- So, it would be helpful for us to question our own behaviour before questioning anyone else?

- Are there sinful behaviours in our lives that we are ignoring - whilst we're pointing the finger at others?
- Jesus illustrated this point - in John 8 - when some men brought an adulterous woman to him who had been caught in the act of adultery-
- Jesus pointed out to the woman's accusers that they had never thought about the sin in their own lives - perhaps some had committed adultery in their hearts - and on top of that the accusers didn't bring the man who took part in the adultery with the woman - only the poor woman was judged by them - the accusers were hypocrites
- When we accuse people of bad behaviour and we haven't repented of our own sinful behaviour - we're being a hypocrite
- Don't forget - we will be judged

2. We are already being judged (v2)

[PowerPoint 4b-already being judged]

- Secondly - true judgment begins with ourselves - because - we are already being judged right now - see v2
- Jesus says when we judge others we will be judged in the same way and in the same measure
- Are we okay with that?
- If we harshly questioned others behaviour and get all high and mighty - then it has a way of boomeranging back to us - and people start questioning our behaviour just as harshly?

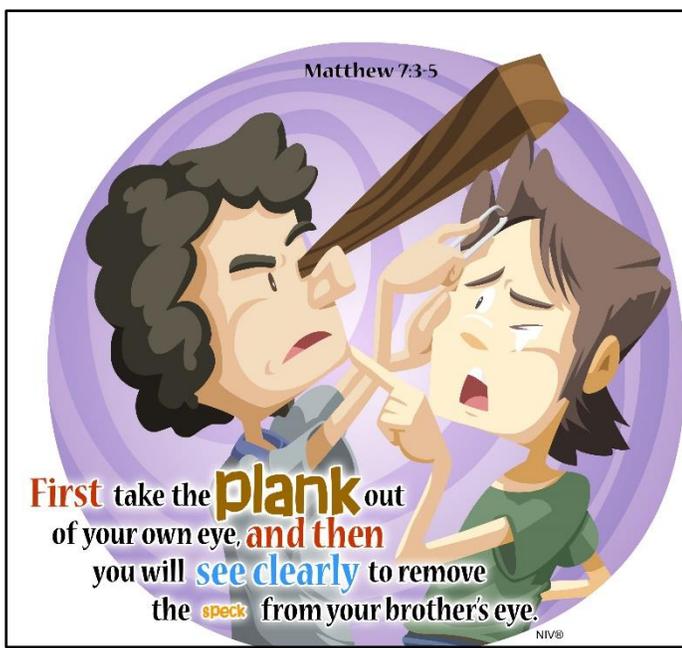
- In other words, we reap what we sow
- If we sow a harsh, arrogant, superior, condemning attitude to others - then we can expect the same in return
- Perhaps it's worth us questioning the way we approach people who we consider are behaving badly?

3. We must see clearly to help others (vv3-5)

[PowerPoint 4c-See clearly]

- Thirdly - true judgment begins with ourselves - because - we need to see clearly to help others
- The aim of judging - or questioning someone else's behaviour is to "help" them - and not to "destroy" them
- **Jesus gives a brilliant illustration in verses 3 to 5**

[PowerPoint 5-plank/speck]



- The **exaggerated humorous picture** of a man with a two-by-four plank stuck in his eye trying to remove a speck from another man's eye - is ridiculous - but it makes a great point
- Jesus' point is if we don't honestly face up to our own sins and confess them, we become blind to ourselves and our behaviour - and then we can't see clearly to help others
- The **Scribes and Pharisees** saw the sins of other people, but they would not look at their own sins - no wonder Jesus calls them **blind guides** in Matt 23.
- For us - we need to be looking in the mirror (James 1:23-24) and taking a good hard look at ourselves and our behaviour before questioning anyone else's behaviour
- As we do this self-examination - we must avoid **2 extremes**
 - 1st extreme - We must not do a shallow examination and fail to examine our hearts honestly and thoroughly - a quick glance in the mirror will not do
 - 2nd extreme - we must avoid a perpetual autopsy of ourselves and become so discouraged and defeated we can't function. Instead bring our concerns about our behaviour to Jesus in prayer (Phil 4:5-9)
- After we have judged ourselves honestly before God, and removed the things that are blinding our judgment then we can help others and properly question their behaviour
- There's also another point here with **Jesus' illustration** of the eye

- **Eyes are really sensitive**
- **I don't know about you - but **I hate anyone or anything touching my eye****
- **So, as we point out a person's behaviour - we **must do it sensitively** - as though operating on an eye - **using tender loving care** - we're trying to help people - not make them feel crushed and defeated**

4. We must judge correctly to share the Gospel (v6)

[PowerPoint 6-4 points]

- **Fourthly - true judgment begins with ourselves - because - **we must judge correctly to share the Gospel** - see v6**
- **As God's people we are in the **privileged position** to handle the "holy things" of the Lord - these are the pearls Jesus is referring to in this verse**
- **God has entrusted us with **sharing the Good News of Jesus** (the Gospel)**
- **And we must treasure the Gospel carefully**
- **Jesus is saying no dedicated priest in His day would **throw meat from the altar to a filthy dog** and only a fool would **give pearls to a pig****
- **Whilst it's true we must carry the Gospel to everyone (Mark 16:15) - it's also true we must not cheapen the Gospel by not having any discernment**
- **Even Jesus **refused to talk to King Herod** (Luke 23:9) and the **Apostle Paul refused to argue** with people who resisted the Word (Acts 13:44-49)**
- **Remember the **reason for judging** is not to condemn others but to help them**
- **When Jesus dealt with people - He **dealt with them** - according to their needs and their spiritual condition**

- **He did not use the same spiel with each person He came across**
- **He talked about being born again - with Nicodemus**
- **He spoke of living water to the Samaritan woman**
- **When the religious leaders tried to trap Him, He refused to answer their question until they answered His question (Matt 21:23-27)**
- **Jesus is saying here - when we share the Gospel - we need to judge each situation - if we're getting abused or ridiculed or disrespected - or if the person we are sharing the Gospel is openly hostile and defiantly rejects God's Word - then it's okay for us to decide against going any further with sharing Jesus with them**
- **We can leave the door open for future conversations - but for this occasion we shake the dust off our feet (Matt 10:14) - and move on!**

Helping Others

- **Now that we've judged ourselves - how can we help others**

[PowerPoint 7-Heading]

- **Before we look at helping others - here's some things that are not helpful**
- **We shouldn't be judging people on things that are a matter of taste or preference or things that are subjective. For example:**
 - **If someone has the occasional glass of wine or beer - and we don't - **let's not judge them****
 - **If someone is not wearing a face mask this morning - we don't know their situation - they may have a medical reason - **let's not judge them****

- If someone decides to not to have the **flu vaccine** or the **covid19 vaccine**
 - that's their choice - and if **we think differently** - that's our choice
- If we judge people on their tastes and preferences - and we get quite pushy about it - don't be surprised if they push back hard!
- The real reason for judging is to help others

[PowerPoint 7a]

1. The Bible is as our moral compass. The Bible is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:15-17). It's **God's Word** that shows us where wrong choices are being made - not our opinions - not our gut feelings - nor our own preferences

[PowerPoint 7b]

2. If we consider someone's behaviour is contrary to God's Word -**We don't hit them with a sledgehammer** - Eph 4:32 says: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

[PowerPoint 7c]

3. To help people - we **must speak the truth in love** - Eph 4:15

[PowerPoint 7d]

4. To help people - we **must restore them gently** - as Gal 6:1 says - **Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.**

Let's pray