

DO NOT JUDGE

May 16, 21 | Luke 6:37-42 | Pastor Michael Foster



Key points for the series

- We all have something in our ear!
 - What aims for your ear, aims for your heart!
 - If we're not hearing Jesus, it's not because He has a speaking problem but because we have a listening problem!
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What it isn't:

- An endorsement of moral relativism (John 14:6, 17:17)
- A forbidding of godly discernment and loving confrontation (Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2)
- A way to avoid people with loving concern for you (Proverbs 12:1, 15:32, 2 Timothy 3:16)

What it is:

- A forbidding of casting judgment that condemns and withholds mercy from others

Three ways we judge wrongly:

- We judge with the wrong standard (Mark 7:8, Romans 14:10-14)
- We judge with the wrong (incorrect or incomplete) information (John 7:24, Proverbs 18:13)
- We judge with the wrong attitude (Luke 6:37-42, etc.)

Why we shouldn't judge:

- It is not good for us (vv. 38-39)
- It is not good for others (v. 39)
- It is not like Jesus (v. 40)

How to correct others in ways that are humble and helpful: (vv. 41-42)

- Judge yourself first and take the telephone pole out of your own eye!
- Be gentle!

Questions to ask yourself as you humbly help others:

- Do I really know? (Might my information about a person or situation be wrong or incomplete?)
- Am I really right? (Is my judgment based on Scripture and not my own preferences or convictions of conscience?)
Am I really righteous? (Or am I being self-righteous, hypocritical, harsh, unforgiving, or slanderous?)

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Spend four weeks (6 chapters each week) reading the Gospel of Luke every day.
- Meditate on Luke 6:17-49, John 8:1-11, and Romans 15:5-7
- Read *Overcoming Bitterness* by Steve Viars
- Read “Judge People! (Like Jesus Did)” - www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/judge-people-like-jesus-did/
- Read “Overcoming a Critical Spirit” - www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2014/10/16/overcoming-a-critical-spirit/
- Listen to “Mercy” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fvww0_6GWYU
- Watch “Do Not Judge” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq5dtAe9PkM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. In your own words, explain the difference between the kind of judgment Jesus forbids and the moral discernment he commands us to have.
3. In what ways does our world tempt us to develop judgmental attitudes?
4. Have you ever felt judged by someone in a condemning way? Describe your experience.
5. Have you ever hurt someone through your unrighteous judgment of them?
6. Read John 8:1-11. In your own words, describe some of the differences between Jesus and the religious leaders?
7. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What are some temptations we should guard against when seeking to help others?
8. Practically speaking, how can we make sure that we are dealing with the logs in our own eyes on a regular basis?
9. Is there any log in your own eye that you need to confess to others? Is there anyone you need to seek forgiveness from?
10. How might we grow as a church known for loving, Christlike acceptance of others? (Consider Romans 15:7)