

WEEK 15 | MATTHEW 7:1-6

A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of His Kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In this series, we are studying Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under His rule and reign, and live as His representatives where we work, live, and play. In Matthew 7:1-6, Jesus reveals the true spirit behind using Godly judgment that is free of hypocrisy or condemnation.

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful as you consider this text.

John 7:24

Corinthian 4:5

Romans 2:1-2

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of this week's scriptures.

1. The Greek word for "judge," is "Krino," which can be translated as "the idea of expressing a negative opinion about someone." How might one's understanding of this definition help them to find the true meaning of this passage?
 2. Do you think that verses 3-4 command us to not judge others unless we are living a life that is above reproach? How does the statement in verse one, "For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you" shed light on this question?
 3. Verses 3-4 offer insight into the form of judgment that Christ is calling us to avoid. How might we Judge others in a manner that is free of hypocrisy and selfish or insecure motives?
 4. Martin Lloyd Jones in his commentary *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, States that "Scripture itself teaches us that judgment has to be exercised in connection with affairs of the state. It is scripture which teaches us that Judges and magistrates are appointed of God and that a magistrate is called upon to deliver and pronounce judgment, that is his duty to do so" (pg. 429). If there are biblical, God-honoring forms of Judgment, how might we discern between what Christ is calling us to avoid in these verses and what is righteous judgment?
 5. In verse 6, Jesus appears to be calling us to use judgment and discernment towards people. How does this passage relate to John 7:24, and how might we apply this to our daily lives?
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6. Lloyd Jones also mentions that “It is the final judgment upon an individual, and what makes it terrible is that at that point it is arrogating to itself something that belongs to God. You remember how, when our Lord sent messengers into the villages of the Samaritans to make ready for His arrival, and they would not receive them that James and John hearing this said: ‘Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them?’ That is it; they wanted to destroy the Samaritans. But our Lord turned and rebuked them and said, ‘Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man came not to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’ They were guilty of forming and passing a final judgment on those people and proposing to destroy them. There is all the difference in the world between doing that and expressing an enlightened, intelligent criticism of a man’s views and theories, his doctrine, his teaching or his mode or manner of life. We are called upon to do the latter, but the moment we condemn and dismiss the person we are assuming a power that belongs to God alone and no one else” (pg. 434). Although a lengthy quote, Lloyd Jones beautifully expresses the intended, undistorted spirit that Jesus is revealing in this text, which is largely what Jesus does throughout the entire Sermon on the Mount. How might we adopt this spirit and live lives that point and guide others to Christ without hypocritically condemning them?

PRAY TO CLOSE.