

Matt. 7:1-6 - Pigs, Dogs and Logs - (part 1)

INTRO - This text is one of the most popular and most quoted in our society. It is usually used as a blanket to cover sin or a shield to deflect an accusation of sin. We have talking about societal/cultural sins because of a popular accusation that America is guilty of a unique sin and that that sin is imbedded within a certain pigment of people. Scripture affirms that every culture is corrupt. Every society sanitizes certain sins that it embraces and approves (most favored sin status). These *approved sins* flavor the culture. Culture wars are when society fights over which sins will be acceptable. The church has a role in this battle to be LSL - shine light, be salt and to love society enough to warn it about sins destructive power. The church addresses the issue of sin head on but is also declares salvation from sin in the only Savior.

Today we begin to examine the proper way to judge. How do we give and receive accusation/criticism. How do we judge biblically or is it even biblical to judge? My intention was to hit this all in one message to wrap up series but (since this is the most popular text in the world) we will take two -Pigs/Dogs/Logs. Caution Reciprocation, Self-Examination, Comparison, Precision, Determination

CAUTION

1. Matt. 7:1a "Do not judge..." there it is - the most popular 3 words in the Bible
 - a. They are potent 3 words and we shouldn't automatically lessen their weight.
 - b. At minimum - Great caution should be taken before entering into judgment of anyone
2. Is Jesus doing away with all opinions, evaluations, discernment skills or biblical standards?
 - a. If these were the only 3 words in the Bible then yes....but they're not. John 7:24
 - b. Jesus requires a just/righteous judgment.
 - c. The other verses attached to these 3 tell us that He is prohibiting improper judgment
3. Applying Biblical standards is not us doing the judgment – it is applying God's verdict / judgment
 - a. Last week's news cycle full of extreme evil that we judge as evil because God says it's evil
 - i. Beheaded girlfriend. Dead kids in trunk. Pastor sexually abusing, 17,000 babies
 - b. It is good to judge as evil what God calls evil. In fact, it is evil to not judge evil
4. There are some areas which we are forbidden to judge. Do not judge...in these arenas
 - a. Rom. 14:1 passing judgment on personal opinions about disputable matters
 - i. Food – vegetarian or meat-eaters Religious holy days- observe or not
 - ii. There are limited areas of judgment because of many areas of liberty
 - b. James 2:4,9 showing partiality among people based on external appearance
 - i. Such "distinctions" makes us *judges with evil motives* and *committing sin*
 - ii. Clothes and complexion are forbidden areas of judgment. Externals are not evil
 - iii. "Do not judge by appearance..." John 7:24 (ethnic or economic status)
5. We are to use extreme CAUTION before we begin to make a judgment. "Do not judge..."
 - a. Hesitate before you evaluate. Eager/chomping at the bit to butt in with your opinion?
 - b. Don't be a fault finder or aspire to the spiritual gift of rebuke (there's not one)
 - c. James 1:19 – "be quick to listen and slow to speak..."

RECIPROCATION

- Matt. 7:1b “...or you will be judged...” Reciprocation always accompanies judgment
 - Count on it - what you impose on others will be imposed on you
 - There is a reciprocation with accusation...it cuts both ways
 - Our criticisms will boomerang back, come back pressed down shaken together and....
 - Those that are critical will be criticized
- Matt. 7:2 “...for by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.” (this is a promise)
 - If you complain about people always in your business...maybe you are in their business?
 - James 3:1 those who call others out (preachers) will be called out
 - When we judge others we open ourselves up to be judged by others
 - James 2:13 the way we judge others will be used against us
- Don’t dish it out if can’t take it. there is a reciprocation with accusation – cuts both ways
 - Know anyone who wants to fix everyone else but bristles at being fixed themselves?
 - We will eventually all get it Romans 14:10-13a (what goes around comes around)
 - Our own words will condemn us (David judged 4 fold and it cost him 4 fold)

SELF-EXAMINATION

1. Matt. 7:3-4 Self-examination should always precede any accusation
 - a. We are to look at ourselves first. Before examining someone else’s sin notice your own
 - b. Jesus illustrates this with *the eye* and noticing a speck in brother’s eye (eye boogers)
 - i. Jesus was a carpenter so sawdust in the eye was familiar to Him
 - c. The one noticing the speck of sawdust is somehow oblivious to the log in his own eye
 - i. To judge biblically we have deal with our beam first.
 1. Beams before boogers Logs before a little dust
 - ii. Take care of our big stuff before we nick pick someone else’s little stuff
 - d. Our personal *logs* are obvious but we are often oblivious – we need self examination
 - i. Look in the MIRROR before you pick up the MICROSCOPE on someone
2. Rom. 12:3 don’t build yourself up by tearing others down
 - a. 1 Cor. 10:12 remember your slippery position when helping someone up
 - b. Gal. 6:1 Judge gently, *looking to yourself*, aware of your own temptations
3. Matt. 7:5 Beware of hypocrisy in your judging of others
 - a. Beam guy ragging on booger guy is accusing someone while bearing a greater guilt
 - b. Not come church because of hypocrites? Come on in because you will fit right in
 - c. Politician who pushed for gun control but was busted for gun running
 - i. Some people scream the loudest against what they are trying to hide the most
 - d. Pres. of Evangelicals who railed against homosexuality but caught with gay lover
 - e. David mad about someone stealing a sheep when he had stolen someone’s wife
4. Rom 2:1
 - a. Do we practice what we preach...or are we practicing what we are condemning?
 - b. Rom 2:19-24 are we complying with what we are applying to others?
 - c. God’s name is blasphemed when we judge hypocritically
 - d. The church should examine itself first, clean its own house - then we have credibility to clean someone else’s house. Judgment is to begin at the house of God 1 Peter 4:17

How do we judge biblically?- Caution Reciprocation Self-Examination.....