



The Beam in My Own Eye

Matthew 7:1-6

The Beam in My Own Eye

- “Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most of them do.” (Dale Carnegie)
- I’ve read the entire New Testament, and contrary to how some act, criticism is not a work of righteousness or a fruit of the Spirit.

Matthew 7:1-6

- “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 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? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. 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.”

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- Jesus is critical of judgmentalism, but He did not condemn all forms of judgment
- There are circumstances where judgments must be made, or we will become derelict in our duty
 - Matt. 7:6 implies judgment is to be made regarding the selfish and deliberately immoral
 - Matt. 7:15-20 implies judgments must be made in identifying false teachers

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- Jesus taught people to judge with righteous judgment - John 7:24
- Christians have the responsibility to judge on behalf of who are in the local church - 1Cor. 5:9-13
- We are taught by the apostle of love (John) to make judgments about the soundness and attitudes of teachers - 1John 4:1

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- I have been very forthcoming in preaching and teaching about judgmentalism
- In a surprising development, I discovered a troubling spirit among those who think themselves to be victims of other's judgment
- They don't just condemn those who are judgmental; they condemn everyone who makes judgments, including those who follow the Lord's command to judge with righteous judgment

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- In fact, they exhibit the same kinds of attitudes and use the same kinds of words as the people they accuse of being judgmental.
- This not merely ironically amusing, it is frightening. In condemning judgmentalism, they have become judgmental, and will share the same eternal destination as those they denounce
- What is often overlooked is that we may feel we are being judged, when in reality we are not being judged.
- Simply because we feel we may be judged is not an entitlement to charge another Christian with being judgmental.

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- Those who charge others with the sin of judgmentalism must understand that:
 - Jesus commanded us to make judgments; however, they must be based on righteousness
 - If we truly are being judged, we cannot descend to their level by acting the same way toward them
 - Being a victim does not give us the right to act out
 - 1Peter 2:23 - “Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”

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- How we react to criticism defines who we are
 - Prov. 9:7-8 - “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.”
 - Acts 13:45-46 - “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.”

Jesus Defined Unrighteous Judgment

- Judging when one is blind to his or her own faults
 - Luke 6:41-42 - “And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.”
 - “Jesus is saying that it is wrong for anyone to concentrate his attention on the speck in his brother's eye, and while thus occupied, to ignore the beam in his own eye” (Hendriksen).

Jesus Defined Unrighteous Judgment

- Paul taught proper introspection when helping others
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

Jesus Defined Unrighteous Judgment

- Judging without mercy and love
 - Luke 6:36-37 - “Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”
 - James 2:13 - “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”
- “The Lord is here condemning the spirit of censoriousness, judging harshly, self-righteously, without mercy, without love” (Hendriksen)

What Is The Beam In My Own Eye?

- Being consumed with the faults of others
 - Luke 6:41 - “Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye”
 - Look at, beholdest: “Blepo - to look at, behold, beware, look on, perceive, regard, see, sight, take heed, gaze intently” (Strong's)
 - It is one thing to notice the faults in others, it is another thing to stare at and obsess over the shortcomings in another person's life.
 - “Some people find faults like there's a reward for it.” (Zig Ziglar)

What Is The Beam In My Own Eye?

- Being openly critical of the faults of others
 - Luke 6:42 - “...how can you say to your brother”
 - What is going on in this context? Focusing on others to avoid looking at myself

What Is The Beam In My Own Eye?

- Even though the judgmental person claims to be trying to help, very often they only want to help themselves. Their criticism is a vehicle through which they overlook their own faults.
- “It is easier to be critical than to be correct.” (Former British prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli)
- Jesus addresses those who choose the easy road of criticism over the difficult road of self-examination.

What Does Jesus Want Us To Do?

- “Never make a judgment about someone else!” Wrong.
- “Never mention someone else’s sins!” Wrong. One extreme is no better than the other.

What Does Jesus Want Us To Do?

- Examine our own selves first, from our attitude on the inside to our words and actions on the outside
- James said the word of God is a mirror, not binoculars - James 1:23-25

What Does Jesus Want Us To Do?

- Eliminate our own sins
- Gal. 6:1 - “You who are spiritual...”
- Before we can ever be of a real spiritual help to others, we need to pursue spiritual help for ourselves.

What Does Jesus Want Us To Do?

- Judge with righteous judgment, mercy, and love; the way you expect others to judge
 - Matt. 7:12 - “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

What Does Jesus Want Us To Do?

- Speak from the heart with love and tenderness
 - 2Tim. 2:24-26 - “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”