

Christians Shouldn't Judge

Series: Spiritual Bigfoots: Disproving the Myths

July 25, 2010

Scripture: Matthew 7

1"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 then turn and tear you to pieces.

Matthew 12:1-13

1At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. **2**When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

3He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4**He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. **5**Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? **6**I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. **7**If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the innocent. **8**For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

9Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, **10**and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

11He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? **12**How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

13Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. **14**But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Outline

1. Jesus did not completely forbid judging.
2. Jesus told them not only to judge, but how to judge rightly.

3. We tend to interpret ancient words through the filter of our modern-day culture, especially in this case—tolerance.
4. Failure to read the passage in context of Jesus entire statement.
5. What Jesus didn't say: a. Don't make any kind of moral judgments.
6. John 8 woman stoned caught in the act of adultery
7. Make judgments properly:
 - a. Judge as you want to be judged (with extreme caution and using a Biblical scale).
 - b. Deal with your own sin first. (Matthew 7:5) plank in eye.
 - c. Don't judge if God hasn't clearly spoken.
 - d. Don't judge non-believers by Christian standards. (1 Cor. 5:9-13)
8. Do you think there is a reason God doesn't address every issue? Given holy spirit

gambling, drinking, movie choices
9. How to judge:
 - a. Ultimately, God's role is to judge.
 - b. Our role is to evaluate spiritual leaders
 - c. We must remain humble and honest
 - d. We must only judge in areas where God has spoken clearly.
 - e. The purpose of judging a fellow Christian is always to restore
 - f. Judge with grace.
10. What needs to change in our lives this week as a result of this study?