

## A Life That Actually Works

### Part 5: When Can I Judge Someone Else?

Matthew 7:1-12 - [Watch online](#)

**Summary:** We are experts at finding ways to judge each other. And we get caught in an endless cycle of anger, passive aggressive avoidance, and even outright hostility. Jesus offers a better way. A way to avoid all of this pointless anger and judgment.

#### Questions:

1. How do you react when you feel like you are being judged? What do you tend to judge others about?
2. Why do you think Jesus cares so much about whether or not we judge someone else?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Which of these descriptions of God's love are you most thankful for at the moment? Which characteristic do you feel you could use some more practice allowing the Holy Spirit to shine through you?
4. What are some practical steps you can take this week to offer Jesus' love, acceptance, and forgiveness to those you might want to judge?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

#### Main Points:

[00:54] We are experts at finding ways to judge each other.

[01:48] We judge others so we can compare our best intentions to their worst qualities.

[02:20] Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven frees us from the cycle of judgment.

[04:08] We rationalize our faults and judge others for theirs.

[06:31] Judging Rule: Don't personally correct anyone until you've personally eaten at least three meals with them.

[08:03] We can't speak truth in love to someone unless we truly and unconditionally love them

[11:04] The correction of the Holy Spirit is always perfectly loving, true, and timed.

[14:34] Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven offer preemptive love and acceptance.

[17:51] When we experience how much Jesus loves us we lose our need to judge others.

#### Weekly Practice [15:50]

READ: 1 Corinthians 13

ASK: Whom have I been judging that I need to offer Jesus' love/acceptance/forgiveness to?

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#### Transcript:

**IN:** No one likes being judged.

At some point and in some way, we have been and are judged by others... and if we're honest we're pretty good at judging others too.

Is there a way to stop this cycle? Is there a way to stop judging others and at the same time not let the judgment from others affect and weigh down our lives?

Jesus said there is... So let's talk.

**WE:** How does it feel when you know/suspect someone is judging you? How do you react?

- Anger, defensiveness, antagonistic (I'm just going to do it even more!), self-consciousness,
- Turn around and find things to judge them about?
- It's easy b/c there's so many things we can judge each other about...

**We are experts at finding ways to judge each other.**

- Parenting/politics/religion/style/income/accent
- Our most common reaction to feeling judged is judging the judge right back.
  - My kids are misbehaved?... well your kids are dumb.
  - I'm a heartless conservative?... well you're a brainless liberal.
- We even judge people for being so judgemental.
  - Who are you to judge me... you think you're so wonderful?

Endless cycle... anger/passive aggressive statements/avoidance/even outright hostility... horrible way to live.

So why do we do it? We're afraid we're not good enough and want to feel better...

**We judge others so we can compare our best intentions to their worst qualities.**

Jesus offers us a better way. A way to avoid all of this endless/pointless anger and judging...

It's a life that seeks the Kingdom of Heaven now ... choosing to play our role in God's Kingdom on earth now...

He described this life in Sermon on Mt. And near the end of it he addresses this universal tendency toward judgment.

What see is... **Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven frees us from the cycle of judgment.**

We often read this section as pithy, fortune cookie, pieces of wisdom from Jesus thing...

But it's actually a connected/coherent message all related to each other...

Why it's important to sit down and read whole sections in one sitting..

**GOD: 7:1-2** Oh good I don't do that... Judge = Condemn

- Fault finding, Critical Attitude
- While at the same time being blind to our own failings
- Ever do that? Thought so.

Jesus- Look if you judge... you're going to be judged too

- Talking about the cycle of judging each other
- But also we're going to have to give an account for the judgment we've placed on others.

So don't judge until you're ready to have your life scrutinized and judged.

**V. 3-4** Funny picture... but so accurate of our human nature.

We love to apply standards and ethics to others and give ourselves the benefit of the doubt.

### **We rationalize our faults and judge others for theirs.**

EX: ME: Parents yelling at kids in store... But when I do it... "it's in private and they have been crazy!"... we give ourselves the Benefit of the doubt.

Late to meeting... Me- Well I have a good excuse traffic/tired/rarely do it... Others- So lazy.. Don't they know my time is valuable.

Jesus has a name for people like me...

**V. 5** We love this verse b/c we think it gives us... loopholes!

**1st:** "Don't judge... cool cool. Yeah... buuut Jesus *IS* telling us to deal with the speck in their eye. We ARE supposed to correct people. Right and wrong... RIGHT?!"

It'd be funny if it weren't so sad... why do we insist on jumping right to the "yeah but's."

Maybe we should really pay attention and internalize Jesus' **actual main point** before we get all excited about his little caveat.

Sure they might have something that could be corrected... And obviously we need to discern from right and wrong and promote good/right... but not out of condemnation and superiority.

But the whole point is to take care of our own issues first.

And dealing with our own issues might actually prepare us to have enough humility/empathy to not judge someone but actually offer encouragement and help in places they need it.

So should we correct others- Sometimes... but very carefully, very slowly, and very rarely... and very prayerfully... within an unconditional loving and established relationship where you are open and willing to also be corrected by the person.

### **Judging Rule: Don't personally correct anyone until you've personally eaten at least three meals with them.**

- Everyone going to be scared if I invite them over for dinner : )

A phrase often used as a way to get to judge/correct someone... "But the Bible clearly says..." "I'm just speaking truth in love."

- Please tell me how you are the top biblical scholar in your field and how your credentials are so much higher than all the other scholars who have devoted their lives to studying these passages and actually disagree with you.

For a large majority of the passages we like to quote AT each other... there is a healthy debate among experts as to what the authors were actually saying in their time and place and what that truly means for our lives today.

Ex. Divorce, Gender roles, sexuality, voting practices...

The BW's weren't given to us so we have things with which to judge each other... they were given to us to show us who God is, how he loves us, how he restores us, and how we can enjoy him now and forever.

So before we use the BW's to judge someone make sure we know what you are talking about and whether or not it actually is as clear as our english translation makes it seem.

**We can't speak truth in love to someone unless we truly and unconditionally love them**

**2nd:** We think this passage gives us a loophole to judge those who are judging us.

"Yeah! Jesus says you can't judge me! You judgemental hypocrite!"

Sure... but guess what?

- Jesus goes even further and says in his kingdom we don't even judge those who judge us... **God-People stop the cycle of judgment.**

When we read scripture, especially Jesus, it's not "What about THEM?" it's always "What about ME?" What am I responsible for?

He is not saying... "Make sure people don't judge you!" That really isn't our concern or something we can do anything about!

Should they judge you? Probably not. But that's between them and God.

Not your business... You are not the judge of their judgment.

Those living in the KoH recognize that God alone is the judge... even of those judging us.

Also... being humble means seeing if there actually is truth in what they are saying.

Ok great... but what if we KNOW we are right in our "correcting" of someone? We still need to tread incredibly lightly...

**V. 6** Maybe we ARE right but if they aren't ready to hear it... it's a waste of our time/energy/relationship

There is a time to speak and a time to be silent... and honestly this world could use a lot more silence.

We are so quick to try to judge and correct others... But who is the true, ultimate judge? God himself.

To judge is to take on the role of God.. he's not to keen on people usurping his authority...

AND... if this person is a JF/CoG... then they actually have the Holy Spirit of God living inside of them, teaching them, transforming them from the insight out...

Sure they might have things to work on, maybe even major things... but what you want them to "fix" might not be what the HS is wanting to correct right now..

Maybe he has higher priorities...

- Maybe he wants to work on their trust before he works on their swearing.
- Maybe he wants to work on their anger before he talks to them about whether or not they should be sleeping with whoever they are sleeping with.
- Maybe he wants to grow their peace and joy before he works on what they choose for entertainment.

Who are we think our timing is better than his?

**The correction of the HS is always perfectly loving, true, and timed.**

So should we help correct people? If you are in tune with the HS and his leading and you've taken care of the logs in your eyes... then yes. With extreme doses of love and relationship.

Ok... is that enough lecturing?

Good b/c there's something better... an alternative to all of the judging and cycles of anger and alienation... Seeking the KoH!

**V. 7-11**

Used to think this was my invitation to use "Genie Jesus" prayers... if I just begged enough and was good enough then Genie Jesus would give me whatever I asked for... that's what happens when you take verses out of context.

He is saying if you want to break this cycle...

- Ask for the KoH in your life and you will be given it
- Knock on the KoH and you will be let into something so much better than what you've experienced
- Seek (same word as 6:33) the KoH and you will find it...

If you want a life that actually works... If you want to break out of the cycles all around us... ask and your Father who loves you and wants to give you an abundant life now and forever will give you what you need to live it.

Be seeking the KoH and you will be satisfied.

Jesus- "Now let me sum all of this up for you..."

**V. 12** The perfect summary of everything Jesus has been explaining in this sermon on the MT.

We are used to the negative form of this... *Don't* do to others what you *don't* want them to do to you...

That's easy... and though other philosophers and teachers had said it Jesus' way... he still takes it further... he says DO...

This is what it means to love your neighbor as yourself... to go above and beyond..

This is truly following the law of love.

Do you want people to give you the benefit of a doubt... get to know the real you... love and accept you unconditionally, the real you, before they judge you?

Then do that for others... whether they ever do it for you or not.

### **Citizens of the KoH offer preemptive love and acceptance.**

It's part of the new nature of a child of God that we have been talking about.

- It's God's love coming through us
- Not something we have to pretend, muster up, or force.
- It's something we allow the HS to tune our hearts to.

This is the new way of living/ new way of being human Jesus offers us...

**YOU:** Starts w/ accepting Jesus as our true king

- Committing life- thoughts, motives, actions to him.
- Allowing the HS to love others through us... his love compelling us to love in every interaction.
- Never moment in life... baptism is a great way to express/show change of allegiance. If you're interested in that, or have qs... Email us at [info@yourcrosscreek.com](mailto:info@yourcrosscreek.com)

Train ourselves to tune our hearts to the love of God.

**READ: 1 Cor. 13** This is a description of God's love and the love he wants to shine out of us...

**ASK:** Whom have I been judging that I need to offer Jesus' love, acceptance, and forgiveness to?

This is the counterculture, counter-intuitive life that changed the world once and can change it again one person at a time... one community at a time...

What we mean when we say CCC exists to invite our neighbors to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

This is what it means to bring the KoH to earth now... to be a CoG/JF

**WE:** When Jesus is our king... there is nothing to worry about.

We don't have to prove anything to anyone.

We don't need feel better about ourselves by comparing to other people's faults.

His opinion and love is all that matters.

Your King died and rose again for you... that is how much he is for you.

That realization frees us to accept and love everyone else.

**When we experience how much Jesus loves us we lose our need to judge others.**