

## "JUDGE NOT THAT YOU BE NOT JUDGED"

Matt. 7:1-5: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck out of your eye'; and look a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye."

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Definition: Mote κάρφος Twig, splinter, chaff.  
Beam δοκον Log, large timber.
- B. The word rendered "Judge" here appears frequently in the New Testament.
1. 1 Cor. 10:15: "I speak as to wise men, judge for yourselves what I say."
  2. 1 Cor. 11:13: "Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?"
  3. Luke 7:43: "Simon answered and said, 'I suppose that one whom he forgave more.' And He said to him, 'You have rightly judged.'"
  4. John 18:31: "Then Pilate said to them, 'You take Him and judge Him according to your law.' Therefore the Jews said to him, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.'"
  5. 1 Cor. 4:3-5: "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts; and then each one's praise will come from God."
  6. Rom. 14:4, 10, 13: "Who are you to judge another's servant? ...." "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.".... "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this:

not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way."

7. John 7:24: "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."
8. James 4:11-12: "Do not speak evil of another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and destroy. Who are you to judge another?"

C. This command of "Judge Not" does not prevent:

1. Honest attempts to correct the faults in others.
2. Arriving at an estimate of the worthfulness of others.
3. Church judgments of ungodly church members.

D. Jesus is here hitting hard at the faultfinder.

1. He calls them hypocrites - They are not as good as they claim.

## I. WHY IS THE PRACTICE OF FAULTFINDING WRONG?

A. The faultfinder is wrong in Motive - He is looking for a fault.

1. Chappell says in his Questions Jesus Asked, p. 31:

"Why do you see the mote in your brother's eye? It is not because it is so large and glaring that it cannot be overlooked. It is not because it shrieks at you and demands attention. When you see a thing so small that it can float in a sunbeam, it is because you are looking for it. You cannot help seeing a log. It compels your attention. But no one is likely to see a mote, an insignificant speck, unless he is a keen-eyed searcher."

B. The faultfinder hurts himself because:

1. He blinds himself to his own fault. (Luke 18:9 - Parable Publican-Pharisee).
2. He cannot see any good in his fellowman.

Brownlow, in his Greatest Questions in the New Testament, p. 24, says:

"Put a small black spot in the middle of a white sheet of paper. Ask another what he sees. The changes are he will say, 'A black spot.' He does not see all the white surrounding the black spot. How true of man. We are quick to see black spots in the life of another, but we are slow to see all the whiteness that is there, too."

3. His friendships are short because he picks his friends to pieces.
4. He is not a factfinder - He needs to consider that:
  - (a) Information may be inaccurate.
  - (b) Judgments are not infallible.
  - (c) His sins may be just as bad or worse than that he sees in others.
  - (d) Appearances are deceitful.
  - (e) Doesn't know circumstances.

C. The faultfinder hurts the one with whom he finds the fault.

"No man ever built a house by tearing down his neighbor's."

## II. THIS PASSAGE OF JESUS CONDEMNS US WHEN WE JUDGE OUR FELLOWMAN:

- A. Presumptuously - That is, judging his motives (Rom. 14:4).
- B. Hypocritically - Being just as guilty of sin.

Romans 2:1: "Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge. For in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things."

C. Hastily - Rashly.

Prov. 18:13: "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him."

D. Unjustly or Unfairly.

James 2:13: "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

### III. WHY DO WE LOOK FOR SOMETHING WRONG IN OUR FELLOWMAN?

- A. Sometimes to salve our own conscience.
- B. By tearing down the other man, we feel we are building ourselves up.

Illustration: Run other preacher down to build ourselves up in comparison.

- C. Sometimes because of envy.
  - 1. Those motivated by envy and jealousy in their faultfinding of others is one of the most tragic spectacles of all.

### IV. WITH WHAT JUDGMENT YE METE IT SHALL BE METED UNTO YOU.

- A. This is a terrible saying with the Master - God will remember in His judgment.
  - 1. I have no doubt that this refers to the final judgment.
  - 2. This should be a sobering thought indeed as we try to cut our fellowman down to size.
- B. Here are ten things for which no one has ever been sorry:
  - 1. Doing good to all.
  - 2. Speaking evil to no one.
  - 3. Hearing before judging.
  - 4. Thinking before speaking.
  - 5. Holding an angry tongue.
  - 6. Being kind to the distressed.
  - 7. Asking pardon for wrongs.

8. Being patient with everybody.
9. Stopping the ear of the talebearer.
10. Disbelieving evil reports.

V. **THERE IS MORE GOOD IN MOST EVERYONE WE MEET  
AND WE NEED TO LOOK FOR IT.**

A. Illustration: Preacher's boy who had brought home the ugliest cur puppy he had ever seen. He tried to find something good about him but failed. However, the little boy said, "Daddy, he wags his tail real good."

B. We need to realize the wickedness of this sin - and repent.

"Could we judge all deeds by motives,  
See the good and bad within,  
Often we would love the sinner  
All the while we loathe the sin.  
Could we know the powers working  
To o'erthrow integrity,  
We could judge each other's errors  
With more patient charity."

C. "Let us judge not that we be not judged."

"Then give to the world the best you have,  
And the best will come back to you."