

# Biblical Judging

## All Scripture is KJV: Matthew 7:1-5

### INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT JUDGING

It's always good and encouraging to spend time in the Lord's Word and to praise Him. Even though with all the chaos going on in the world we know that it is the Lord who is in control.

This Sunday I hope that we will be yet encouraged to know that it is the Lord who orders all things.

A subject that is very much disregarded today amongst the world and even amongst some Christians is on the subject of judging others. This false mindset is of the world and not of God. Because God does call for judgment but prescribes how that judgment should take place.

✚ Therefore today we will see how and when judgment should take place.

So with that in mind this morning.....

✚ I want to preach about what does the bible have to say about judging others?

✚ This is a huge subject today and many times you will be singled out for judging others, with the criticism along the lines of "who made you perfect"?

✓ In the King James Bible the word "judge" is used 286 times or the word "judging" is used at least 6 times.

✚ Again..... if we had to spend this morning looking at each and every time this word is used it would not be possible to conclude this sermon for today.

✓ But what I want to show you this morning is that the bible speaks about rightfully and wrongfully judging someone.

1. The bible speaks about how we should not be judging but it also speaks about how and when we should judge the sin.
2. And it also seems that people often mix these things up.
3. And a lot of times when a person is trying to correct sin, or rebuke sin, or speak out against sin, then that person is accused of or is told not to be so judgmental, and that they are not to judge.

✚ Very often preaching does fall into that category, because preachers are called to reprove, and rebuke.

✚ We only have to look to the NT for many confirmations.

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort** with all long suffering and doctrine.

✚ Therefore, preachers are or at least should be pointing out sin, and rebuking sin and lifting up their voices and crying out loud against sin.

- ✚ The bible says they are to lift up their voices as a trumpet and show Gods people their sin.
- ✓ So therefore when a preacher gets up and preachers against sin in our society, and warns us of the dangers of sin, and declare what sins are paraded today, then many....people will often accuse that preacher as being unloving and unkind, .....and that the preacher is being very judgmental.
- ✚ Of course in response to those remarks the preacher has to guard against and remain within the bounds of the scriptures, and not to preach his own agenda.
- ❖ So now before we get into the right kind of judging, let me first point out the wrong king of judging.

**Let me give you 5 types of judging the bible tells us not to do.**

**The type of judging that is wrong.**

**I. The first type is found in Matthew 7. - Hypocrisy**

**[Turn to Matthew 7:1-5](#)**

**<sup>1</sup> Judge not, that ye be not judged.**

**<sup>2</sup> For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.**

**<sup>3</sup> And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?**

**<sup>4</sup> Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?**

**<sup>5</sup> **Thou hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.**

1. So, let's start here. This is a perfect example where we are told not to judge.
2. Let's look at the context.
  - a) So, the key here is verse 5. It is wrong for us to judge, when we ourselves are at worse sin than the person we are trying to judge.
  - b) The bible says **Thou hypocrite**.
  - c) It is wrong to judge when we ourselves are being hypocrites.
  - d) We are judging someone for the same thing that we may be guilty of. And it may not be exactly the same thing, but it may be something very similar.
  - e) And in fact, what we are guilty of is often worse than the person we are judging.

Here the scriptures in Matthew 7 are comparing this to someone who has a beam in their own eye.....(a greater sin)

What is a beam.....it is a large piece of a wooden building structure that is sticking out of his own eye, and yet he is trying to judge someone who has a mote, or equivalent to a speck of sawdust or splinter in their eye.

Yet the person who is trying to judge has this beam in his eye (a greater sin), the bible says he cannot even see clearly to judge because he has this big old beam sticking out of his own eye blocking out his vision.

So how can he then see clearly to take that speck of dirt or splinter (lesser sin) out of the other person's eye when he can't even see anything because of the beam in his eye?

✚ **This is the comparison that the bible gives us of “the sin” or “type of sins” being committed in a person’s life which is greater than that of the other person, yet he wants to stand in judgment of that person.**

✚ **The beam is a symbol of a greater sin, and the mote being a lesser sin.**

✓ Does that mean that we can't judge another person who is sinning? - No.  
✓ The bible says in verse 5, **first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.**

1. So, the bible first commands you that you should get rid of the sin in your “own eye” (life) before trying to remove that sin from another person's “eye” (life). Obviously, that is talking about sin in your own life that needs to be removed first.
2. This passage is often a misunderstood passage. People will use this passage as to say you see the bible says, **“Judge not lest you be judged”**. **But they fail to read past the first four verses**. In fact, they will most often only quote the first verse “Judge not lest you be judged”.
3. But by the time we get to verse 5, Jesus is telling us how to judge.

✚ **You see Jesus said, first cast out the beam in your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to cast out the mote in your brother's eye.**

1. So, is this passage teaching that you cannot judge? – No.
  2. So, is it wrong to judge when you are not being a hypocrite – No.
  3. So, in verse one Jesus is telling us, don't judge if you are guilty, but if you are not guilty then you can judge.
- ✓ But if you are guilty of the same sin, or a similar sin, then the Lords says that if you judge your brother then you will be measured and also judged the same in return.
- ✓ **We will often judge people and then we ourselves will turn around and do the very same thing. But then don't be surprised when God turns around and judges you in return for judging incorrectly for the same thing.**

The bible says.....

**James 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy;** and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

- ✓ So, we will reap what we so, if we judge people for things that we too are guilty of the bible says.
- ✚ So, this verse in Mathew 7: **1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.** Is very often used to attack those who do judge correctly.
- a) For example, if you see those men who cross dress as woman and you call them out, others may well say to you that you are judging them. Yes I am. And the reason why I can is because I am not guilty of that sin, and I am never going to cross dress as a woman. So, I can judge them as committing sin against God.
- b) I am not afraid of that standard, because I don't have that beam in my eye. I am never going to walk down the street as a cross dresser. So why should I be afraid of that standard. I am not being a hypocrite because I will never cross dress.
- c) The same judgement can be meted out in this example to the LGBTQIA in the same regard.
- d) The point of the judgement is simply preaching God's Word.
- ✚ **So, the first type of judging is when a person is being a hypocrite.**
- ✚ And let me say to you that this type of judging happens a lot of the time.
- ✚ There are many people out there who are guilty and yet try to point out the faults of others and yet they themselves are guilty.....and they try to make themselves feel better by pointing out others sin.

**e) We must remember that we should never try to hold people to a higher standard than what we are prepared to hold our self to.**

- ✓ Look at Romans 2.....

**Romans 2:** <sup>1</sup> Therefore thou art inexcusable, **O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.**

- ✓ So, when you are judging others for the same sin that you are doing; you are actually condemning yourself. (judgment.)

**<sup>2</sup> But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.**

**<sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?**

- ✓ So do you see here in another verse about judging? It's speaking in the negative about judging. It's speaking about being a hypocrite, and you then are judged?
- ✓ It's speaking about judging people and you doing the same thing.

And then it says in verse 2....., that **<sup>2</sup> But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.**

- ✓ So, the problem is not that you are condemning people who are sinning, but it is that you are doing it yourself and God will judge you at the same time.

- ✓ By your own account, you will also be judged by God.

Look at verse 3 in Romans 2.....look what it says.....

**<sup>3</sup> And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?**

1. God is warning us here the same way in which he warned us in Matthew 7. That is if you are judging others, and condemning people for their sin and you yourself are guilty of the same sin, then God is going to judge you, and God is against you for the same sinful things that you are doing.
  2. If we are close to any of these sins, then how can we stand in judgment of others when we are involved in the same sin? Even if you are in the grey area of sin.
  3. Even if we are border line on any of these sins, how can we call into judgment anyone who is sinning like we are?
- ✚ That is why God calls us out to be separate. Because you cannot stand in judgment and be a testimony at the same time as being found in these sins?
  - ✚ Therefore we need to ask the Lord to forgive us and cleanse us of all these unrighteous acts of sin and stop being involved in these sins or doing them.

**1 John 1:9 <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

- ✚ If you too are close to committing the same sin as others then the best thing for you is to keep your mouth shut, until such time as you have taken the beam out of your own eye, or else you will be guilty of Romans 2.
- ✚ Harsh, but true.

## **II. The Second type of wrong judging is when we judge outside of our scope of authority.**

**Romans 14.** <sup>4</sup> **Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?** to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

1. Romans 14:4 tells us that it is ok to judge those things which are under our control such as a servant (an employee) or our household, but it is wrong for us to judge for example another person's employee or another man's wife.
  2. So, it is not up to us to judge things that they may do, when they have a ruler over them. Like telling another person's children that they need to be disciplined or you disciplining another person's children.
- ✚ But it is right to bring that for example to that child's parents attention in order that they might judge them and correct their child.
3. **So, we should not judge when it's outside of our scope of authority.**
- ✓ This brings me to my next point or 3<sup>rd</sup> point..

## **III. The Third type of wrong judging is our own opinions and preferences.**

**Romans 14: 14.** Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, **but not to doubtful disputations.**

1. Our opinions should not be brought upon others just because we think they are not like us.
2. The way they do things differently. The way they eat or what they eat etc...
3. They have a different way of life than you, but they doing nothing wrong according to what the bible says.

IV. **The Fourth type of wrong judging is backbiting.**

**James 4: <sup>11</sup> Speak not evil one of another, brethren**. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

<sup>12</sup> There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

1. Judging should never involve talking badly about someone else or talking negatively about them behind their back.
  2. So here we find out that this is when you find out something about someone else and you go around passing this on to someone else about them.
  3. But the bible does tell us how to properly judge, and that involves going to that person and telling them face to face what the problem is.
- ✓ If you have an issue with someone then go to that person and tell them, but don't pass it around behind their backs.
4. Even if that person is doing something wrong, or even if that person is doing something right and you go behind that persons back then that is just evil speaking about that person and the bible does not condone it.
  5. For example, if you see someone's child doing something wrong and you go to another person and tell them about how naughty that child is, and say that they must spank that child because he is so naughty then you are involved in the backbiting. Thats evil speaking and judging of that person. That's the wrong kind of judging.

V. **The Fifth type of wrong judging is "Judging by appearance and assume the worst"**

This is what the bible talks about evil surmising?

Jesus also said in **John 7:24 <sup>24</sup> Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**

1. So basically it is an unrighteous judgment when we only judging the appearance.
2. It's when we are looking at the situation from the outside and assuming the worst.
3. This is the opposite of giving the person the benefit of the doubt and not just assuming the worst.

- ✚ So when we come across a situation like this instead of judging them upfront why not give them the benefit of the doubt to see if in fact the situation is as it seemed to be?

**1 Timothy 6:4** <sup>4</sup> He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, **whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,**

- ✚ So when you judge people on appearance the bible says the following takes place.
  - a) First you will be envious of what they doing?
  - b) Secondly the strife is when you will start arguing with that person.
  - c) Thirdly is when you starting talking bad about that person.
  - d) And fourthly you will start asking yourself what else are they involved in.

That's the order that flows out of judging someone by appearance.

**So now that we have looked at the wrong kinds of judging let's look at the right kinds of judging.**

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians talks a lot about the right kind of judging.
- ✚ So we have seen a lot about the wrong kinds of judging. Judging people when we are a hypocrite, judging people when it is outside our authority, or judging people because of doubtful disputations, or judging by backbiting and judging people by their appearance.
- ✚ Judging by preference because we think so and therefore they should not be doing it in our opinion.

**But what's the right kind of judging.**

1. Sometimes because you are confused about whether to judge or not, you might say well I am just not going to judge at all. And therefore you just going to say I am going to take the safe route out because I just don't want to judge someone, because you might say "who am I to judge"?

Right? – No wrong?

2. That is the wrong idea because the bible has commanded that we must judge, so by not judging you are going against what God has commanded in scripture.
- ✚ Therefore you had better know where you stand in order that you might judge correctly? There is no easy way out my friend?

**1 Corinthians 14: <sup>29</sup> Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.**

3. That means that when the preaching is going on the person who is listening should be judging to see whether what is being said is right or wrong.
4. Judging should be taking place by the hearer.

5. So when you are listening to the preacher you should be searching the scriptures daily to see if it is so. And not just take what the preacher is saying to be true.
  6. You should be judging or evaluating to see if it correct.
- ✚ That is also why the Apostle Paul kept on saying to the people “judge ye what I say”.
7. Your job when you come to church is to judge what the preacher is saying to make sure that it is correct don't just take what you hear. Search the scriptures to see if it be so.
- ✚ **Let me ask you this? Can you even do that if you are not even reading the bible? – No.**
- a) So even if I am preaching and you think that it is right you should still check it.
  - b) Just because I preach does not mean that I can't be wrong on some points.
  - c) Although I strive to preach and to teach what is right, I may make a mistake now and again. So you need to follow up in your own study.
  - d) **Because one day if I am not here, or you go to another church how will you know what is true if you are not searching the scriptures to check if it is so?**
- ✚ If you are preaching the truth as a preacher then you don't mind being judged?

**Look at 1 Corinthians 11: 3-16.** – This is often used as a doubled standard.

This is where people will attack you and say that this is the wrong kind of judging. This is a scripture that discusses that woman are to have long hair and men are to have short hair. But people will take this and say that it is your standard when you tell them the truth and point to this scripture.

- ✚ **A Double Standard:** But isn't it noticeable how woman in a church will all have short hair, and yet condemn those men who will come in and have long hair.
1. They use a double standard for this verse. But yet 1 Corinthians 11:3-16 is clear as to whose hair should be short and whose hair should be long?
  2. What about 1 Corinthians 5: where Paul judges in the church. When there was a man in open sin in the Corinthian church.

**1 Corinthians 5: 1-7** <sup>1</sup> It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

**<sup>3</sup> For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,**

<sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,



**5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

**6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**

**7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:**

1. Even though the Apostle Paul was not there, he said that he had already judged this person? Why? Because that person was in open sin as was pointed out in the scriptures.
2. So, it is not wrong to judge?
3. Even in the following chapter 6 the Apostle Paul continues with the theme of judging what is right.

Paul even tells us in 1 Corinthians 6, that there will come a time when the saints will judge the world.

✚ So, let me ask you this question? If God did not want the believer to judge, why is he saying that the saints will one day judge the world?

1. **So, God is saying in this verse that it is a shame when there is no one who is judging.**
2. **God also tells us that the judgment should begin in the house of God.**
3. **So how can anyone say that they are not prepared to judge anyone.**

**1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

PRAYER.....CLOSE.