

Matthew 7:1-6, plus v12 Planks, Pearls and Pigs

Warm Up

Personally, I dislike reality TV, but many enjoy it. What is your favourite? How do you feel about the contestants being talked about, judged, and then thrown out?

Background and context

In this passage the imagery Jesus uses is almost comedic; specks and planks in people's eyes. However, the message is far from funny. For decades Christians have been accused of being judgmental by society. At other times Christians have avoided making statements about sin for fear of judging others. But now in our world judgment is cool! In our "woke" society, if we fail to meet current societal norms we can get ripped to shreds by those seeking to judge us! This passage reveals Jesus' teaching about how we should judge others. Mercifully!

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 7:16 and v12 What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. What is your reaction to verses 1-2? Does it clarify things or confuse you? Should we make judgments or not?
2. **Read 1Cor 6:1-3 and Romans 14:1-10.** How does Paul balance these two different approaches to judgment?
3. How does verse 1-2 encourage us to show mercy to others in our judgments?
4. If you had a speck in your eye, what type of person would you like to remove it? A partially sighted builder with an adjustable wrench or a trained nurse with ointment, a tissue and compassion? How might this relate to talking about a person's life/sins?
5. Why is it important that we are aware of our "planks," if we desire to support others who are struggling? What qualities and virtues will self awareness bring us?
6. **Read v6.** Is this suggesting there are people with whom we should not share the gospel?
7. How might v6 suggest that in fact we must meet people where they are in life and not force things on them? How might v12 help in understanding v6?

Discipleship and Application



8. Jesus does not tell us not to judge, but to judge appropriately with the right motives. What attitudes do you have that lead to self righteous judgments of others?
9. To whom can you show more mercy in your life?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.