



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **Kingdom Principles – Part 5**

**Matthew 7:1-6**

Message #20 of 80 – S1050

**Sermon given on June 18, 2023**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Kingdom Principles – Part 5

## *Matthew 7:1-6*

### Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 7 – Happy Father’s Day!**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- We are in the section of the gospel of Matthew referred to as the Sermon on the Mount.
- In this sermon, Jesus gives us a series short statements describing the principles that those who are a part of His kingdom should seek to practice.
- So far, we have looked at twelve principles.
- We get one more this morning.
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us ears to hear. - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **Kingdom Principles – Part 5**
- Today, we start with a verse that is probably the verse most frequently quoted by unbelievers to believers.
- **Matthew 7:1**
- First, nowhere does the Bible prohibit believers from judging unbelievers.
- But it does tell us that we don’t need to. **John 3:16-18**  
**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**
- Unbelievers have already been judged and condemned for not believing in Christ Jesus.
- Second and more importantly, the context of this prohibition has nothing to do with unbelievers until verse 6.
- Verses 3, 4, and 5 all refer to ‘your brother’.

- The context of this principle has to do with the relationship between believers.
- **Kingdom Principle #13 – Don’t be Judgmental with Believers.**
- Not only is this misappropriated by unbelievers, but it is also misapplied or misinterpreted by believers.
- Some interpret this command as meaning Christians should never judge anyone about anything.
- If that is what Jesus meant, He violated His own command when He refers to judgmental Christians as hypocrites in verse 5.
- As well as many other places where Jesus makes obvious judgments. ‘judge’ = “to evaluate — to form a critical opinion of something (either positive or negative) by examination or scrutiny.”
- Christians are called to make judgments **1 Thessalonians 4:1.**  
**Test all things; hold fast what is good.**
- To test = to judge between the good and the bad.
- And also **1 John 4:1.**  
**Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**
- Judgment must take place if we are to determine the true from false prophets – those who say they are speaking on behalf of God.
- It is my expectation of you that you would test or examine the things I say to make sure they are true. That is your responsibility.
- Jesus is speaking against a judgmental spirit – against someone who is always looking for faults in others.
- All God’s judgments are based on His character and righteousness.
- The hypercritical person looks for faults in others and then imagines a wicked motivation.
- Instead of thinking the best, they imagine the worst.
- Jesus then goes on to say there is a consequence for being a judgmental person with other believers.
- **Matthew 7:2**
- The point is that we are to be merciful in our judgments.
- Be as merciful with others as you want God to be with you.
- In the future there will be two judgments.
- God will separate the sheep from the goats.
- The sheep are those who are God’s people through faith.

- The Goats are people who rejected God and Christ in willful unbelief.
- The unbelievers will be judged for their sins and experience the eternal consequence of rejecting Christ.
- Believers will also experience a judgment, but not for sin.
- Jesus took our judgment to the cross.
- When He died, the eternal consequence of our sins was wiped away.
- The judgment we face will be of the works we did in this life.
- All our deeds will be evaluated as good or evil, right or wrong, wicked or righteous **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**.

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup>Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.**

- All the wrong ones will be burned up and the good ones will be rewarded.
- Jesus is saying that hypercritical people will have most of their works burned up and without reward.
- They will spend eternity in heaven with God, but they will miss out on much of what God wants them to have in heaven.
- That is the eternal consequence for hypercritical Christ-followers.
- The temporal consequence is broken fellowship with God.
- Having a critical spirit is contrary to God's nature and He cannot commune with the same intimacy He desires.
- I have heard people say they aren't critical; they are just fruit inspectors.
- I am called to inspect the fruit that I put in my basket, but we are not called to inspect all the fruit in the whole store.
- That is the point of the next verses.
- **Matthew 7:3-4**
- If we are going to be critical of others, we must begin by being critical of ourselves.
- Jesus gives a sarcastic and almost comical illustration of what He is saying.
- I imagine Him acting this illustration out to show how foolish it is.
- The 'speck' is some perceived weakness or failing in someone else.

- If we look hard enough, we can find something wrong with anyone.
- Jesus is saying that before we even attempt to help someone with their ‘speck’, we need to deal with our ‘plank.’
- The ‘plank’ or ‘beam’ is our weakness and failing.
- This requires humility before God. Jesus gives the solution.
- **Matthew 7:5**
- We must be discerning in our relationships with others.
- We are called to love one another and minister to one another.
- That includes helping them to see things they may be blind to.
- But we can only do that once we have allowed God to show us the things we are blind to.
- Before we judge others, we must judge ourselves.
- Turn to **John 8**
- The first beatitude helps us to do that **Matthew 5:3**.  
**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- When we see ourselves as we are, we are better able to see others as they are. **R. Kent Hughes**  
**“Jesus does want us to discern the sins and shortcomings in others, but He want us to see them through clear, self-judged eyes – eyes that are tender and compassionate.”**
- Jesus illustrated this principle in the account of the woman caught in adultery.
- **John 8:3-11**
- Even though the woman was guilty of sin – those who brought her to Jesus were just as guilty or worse – each with their own sin.
- Jesus makes it clear that we should play a role in helping a fellow believer deal with the sin in their life. Turn back to **Matthew 7**
- The eye is one of the most delicate parts of the body.
- Great care must be taken when attempting to remove something from the eye to avoid damaging it.
- The same thing is true when helping someone deal with their shortcomings.
- It must be handled very carefully, gently, patiently, and delicately.
- It must begin with love for the other person and an overwhelming desire to be a part of helping them to the good God desires for them.

- Jesus ends this principle with a brief command regarding those hard-hearted people we encounter in life.
  - **Matthew 7:6**
  - The most common interpretation is about being careful about who you share the gospel with.
  - Discretion must be used when sharing the gospel.
  - Some might respond with hostility toward the hope we have in Jesus.
  - But this verse goes much further than that.
  - The holy things of God are not always received well by unbelievers or by hard-hearted believers.
  - All of God's Word is holy. Wisdom from God is holy.
  - This can be a very challenging truth to apply.
  - How do we know when to share and when not to share?
  - It requires a great deal of faith and spiritual wisdom.
  - It requires depending on the Holy Spirit to lead.
  - As believers, we live as people who believe God's Word is true and the fountain of all truth.
  - We know the power of the truth – freedom (John 8:36).
  - We walk in that freedom and our desire is that others would also know that freedom.
  - But not everyone is ready to be free from their bondage – they love their sin too much – both unbelievers and hard-hearted believers.
  - If the Spirit of God has not prepared them to be free – if we attempt to speak the truth they need to hear, we will be casting our pearls before swine, and they may turn on us **Proverbs 23:9**.
- Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.**
- Wait for the Spirit to prompt you to speak – then speak.
  - Judging is a part of the Christ-follower's life.
  - We judge between good and bad – evil and righteous.
  - We don't need to judge the world; their own sin has judged them.
  - And before we try to remove the speck from another believer's eye, we need a good eye exam.
  - Make sure your eyes are clear before you try to help.

- As we close, let us remind ourselves that we do not fear the judgment of God.
- Jesus dealt with all the reasons God would judge us at the cross.
- Let's rejoice in that! Let's pray!