

# BibleSanity.org – Remote Bible Study

## The Sermons, Parables, and Teachings of Jesus Christ

*Session 13 – The Sermon on the Mount, Part Eight, November 8, 2022*

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### **Being Judgmental vs Using Discernment**

In Matthew 7:1-5, with the longer reading from the parallel passage in Luke 6:37-42, Jesus teaches us not to condemn others, especially as based on our own false self-righteousness. Matthew 7:1-5 is fully represented in Luke 6:37 and 41-42.

#### **Luke 6:37-42**

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Main thoughts on Luke 6:37-42 (Note that historic context applies directly to the Pharisees, etc.)

1. Do not judge/condemn others
2. V38 Instructs us be generous, and is given in contrast to being judgmental, reflected in Matthew 7:12 (below).
3. V 39-40 Blind leading the blind and disciples playing master – an aspect of being judgmental of others is always correcting them, instruction based on personal experience and opinion, which is not equivalent to the wisdom of Christ.
4. V41-42 Explains our blindness by our own immaturity/imperfections – need to be students, not masters

**Matthew 7:12**

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Included at the end of the Matthew passage (Matthew 7:6) is a seemingly contrasting verse:

**Matthew 7:6**

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

This is not a conflict with his previous instruction not to be judgmental, but a further instruction to use discernment. This does not mean to refrain from spreading the gospel or to refrain from prayer, but we cannot be drawn into foolish engagement with those who are antagonistically opposed to the gospel and Scripture. We don't "go looking for trouble", but rather, we are admonished to avoid the 'dogs' and 'swine.'

This Discernment is demonstrated when Jesus sends out the 12 disciples in Matthew 10, where He instructs them to move on if they are not received.

**Matthew 10:14**

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Discernment is discussed further in regard to recognizing false religion later in Matthew 7:15-23 (partial parallel in Luke 6:43-45).

**Matthew 7:15-20**

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The first passage (7:15-20) is instruction to us on how to identify false prophets. The passage is reflected well in James 2 "...I will show you my faith by my works..."

I have seen this vividly illustrated in my life, in the instance of a man who often cited Scripture, but his manner to a certain individual (a new Christian) was cruel. When questioned by the new Christian, I cited Matthew 7:20 above, and advised distance. I later discovered that the man belonged to a cult in the local area.

The second passage (7:21-23) reminds us that we do not have to deal with these dogs and swine ourselves. This actually points to the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46 (parable of the sheep and the goats), which is the qualifying judgment on who will enter the Millennium Kingdom.