

Episode #729 - Matthew 7 Part 1: Judge Why Not?

- I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”
- II. The Lord was giving His great teaching session to His disciples commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount.” After teaching them they cannot serve God and money, He chides them not to worry. Today we will conclude the portion on not worrying and being anxious.

III. Do Not Worry!

1. Matthew 6:31. A good application here is worrying about how we shall get these things in the resurrection. We should not worry about this. God will take care of all that.
2. Verse 32. The “Gentiles” are the nations meaning the people of the nations. The Lord spoke this to Jewish people living in Israel.
3. Verse 33. How would you seek this? Where is it that you could find it? The emphasis here is that they put the kingdom first and God's righteousness. Then all these things will be added to them in the kingdom of God. “First” is the Greek *protos*, and means first in order OR first in importance. In this case it is the kingdom of God and righteousness that they should seek as of first importance, not just in time. Seek primarily. Same word as used in Romans for the gospel being to the Jew first.
4. Verse 34. “Worry” again means anxious care. “Sufficient” is only here, in Matthew 10:25 (is is ENOUGH for the disciple that he be like his teacher), and in 1 Peter 4:3 (for we have spent ENOUGH of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles). The problems of today are enough. No need to take on the problems of tomorrow. One great characteristic of the kingdom of God is the day-to-day enjoyment of it.

IV. Judge Not! But Why Not?

1. Matthew 7:1 What Does He mean not to judge?
 1. Many love to use this verse today to say that we should never disapprove of the sins of others. The will chide you not to judge if you disapprove of something they find acceptable. The they reserve the right to look down their own noses at things they find unacceptable! This is inherently hypocritical.
 2. To judge, the Greek *krino*, means to determine what is right, to declare what is right, and to enforce what is right. In order to judge, one must have the authority to set in order.
 3. The point of this passage is not that we should not disapprove of behavior, but ourselves! If we do, we may find the same judgment falling on our own heads.
 4. Where are plenty of sects that declare what is right and there is no appeal. You must do it or you are out. They enforce it by their powers of exclusion.
2. Verse 2. In other words, beware your own yardstick! John 7:24 should guide us.
3. Verse 3. A “speck” is more like a splinter a twig or a straw, versus a huge beam in a roof. Both of these are impossible. This is meant to be a humorous picture.
4. Verse 4. Perhaps we have heard it too often to laugh, but it is quite a funny idea!
5. Verse 5. Often it is those whose vision is most clouded who proclaim the loudest their desire to “help” those whose tiny faults they are sure they have spotted.

V. Conclusion. Many use the idea of not judging to justify disagreement with the Bible’s standards for righteousness. Yet Christ’s point was to urge His disciples not to judge hypocritically, not to tell them that they should not judge unrighteousness. His disciples did so during Acts, and it resulted, for example, in Ananias and Sapphira dropping dead. This too illustrates for us that judgment is not having opinions, but being in a position of authority and using it. As Christ said in John 7:24, “**Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.**” This is what we should all be doing.