

THE MAN IN THE MIRROR – JUDGE NOT!

Matthew 7:1-6

Rev. Jim Douglas - May 17 2010

We've come to the end of another college semester and with that come final exams. These tests are measure of whether you're comprehending and retaining the information being placed in front of you. Portions of what we call the Sermon on the Mount are designed to do the same thing. In this text, Jesus gives us a test, or a gauge by which we can see whether we get the gospel. In chapter 6, Jesus gives us a gauge to test us according to how we view our material possessions. If you *get* the gospel you'll see your life as being about glorifying God on the earth; about proclaiming His name to those lost souls. Here in chapter 7 He gives us another gauge of how we view and see others in our lives compared to ourselves. I recently went to my Doctor for a physical and he gave me 4 things. First he gave me a COMMAND. Secondly he gave me his CONCERN. Thirdly, he gave me a CURE. Fourthly, he gave me a CAUTION. When I look at our text, I see Jesus giving His Disciples, and us, the same 4 things as He describes this test we can take to see if we are getting the gospel.

- A. He gives us a Command, a Concern, a CURE, and a CAUTION. First Jesus gives us a COMMAND. The command is this, "Judge not..."

People tend to use this verse as a sort of sign or symbol that we don't need to worry about absolute truth anymore on the earth. They act as if Jesus is giving us the thought that, you as a human being, do not know what is good or bad. No, Jesus isn't going soft on sin here. As they go on to do the work, His Disciples and Apostles also know that sin is still sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). No, Jesus isn't redefining sin here. Often times people will interpret this to say, "you can't tell me what's wrong in my life. What, are you perfect? Who made you my judge?" Jesus doesn't have a problem with us confronting one another when we're not portraying Him to the world accurately.

The Greek word for 'judge' is the word krino, which means to separate, to divide, and to put things into piles. . In Jesus' day, it was used of someone who thought of himself as being better than others. This is where we get our English word critic. These are people who put sin on a scale from 1 – 10. Notice that Jesus doesn't just address your verbalizing in judgment, but He also addresses the heart. People who really *get* the gospel message are those who know and acknowledge that the only reason they haven't done some of the things others have done is by the grace of God. Jesus does go on to address those who actually verbalize their judgmental heart.

- B. Next, Jesus gives us a CONCERN, based on the command He's just given.

If your whole life has been about judging sins, and giving them numerical values and comparing the sins of others with what you consider your *lesser* sins, you are in for a rude awaking. Jesus is saying that one day you'll stand before the ultimate Judge, and His scale only has 2 values – 0 and 10.

C. Next, Jesus gives us a CURE.

He gives us the cure for this condition that causes us to grade sin. People tend to think that He's only talking about those annoying people who judge others on things that they have glaring issues within their own life. . He's not just talking about people who condemn adulterers while they go out and solicit prostitutes themselves. No, He's also talking about people who condemn the adulterer while they're busy gossiping about them behind their backs. The log in my eye is me thinking that my big ears are not as bad as your big forehead. The log in my eye is me thinking that somehow my issues are not as bad as your issues. What people who *get* the gospel recognize is, "even though my issues are different than yours, and even if they may have different consequences on the earth, my issues are not better or worse than yours in the eyes of God." The log that is in my eye is the pride that makes me think that somehow I don't have to worry about my junk as much as you have to worry about yours. It's the difference between me doing that and me coming to you and looking in the mirror and looking at you through all the junk that is in my own life. You see, the log in our life isn't the type or amount of sin. The log in our life is the pride that says that this stuff isn't as bad as your stuff.

D. He wraps this section up with a CAUTION. This is in verse 6.

Anyone who's tried to live by this and get the log out of their own eye while trying to come alongside others and talk to them about their junk has been burned. Somewhere along the way, you've come alongside someone and shared your junk with them hoping it would unleash the humility in them and instead they took your junk to the news! Unless the Spirit of God is in them to convict them while you're talking, their pride may just swell up and cause them to beat you up with the junk you just humbly shared.

There's a Command, a Concern, a Cure, and a Caution. How well are you doing with this?

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:

1. Would you pass this gospel test if Jesus gave it to you today?
2. Are you going around lovingly confronting people because you see the junk in your own life?
3. Or, are you going around condemning people because you're coming at them with an "I'd never" type attitude.
4. Are you a fellow ex-convict and fellow freed prisoner trying to help others see how they can be freed.
5. Or are you playing judge and jury with folks from a position of arrogance and an exalted, prideful place. Are you getting the gospel?
6. Can you not live this way because you don't have that personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Surrender to Him today!