

# The School of Christ

Lesson 8

## THE DANGERS OF JUDGMENTALISM

Matthew 7:1-5

- › Last week John spoke on Christians as the 'salt of the earth' (Matthew 5:13) - a command of Jesus to be instrumental for the kingdom of God

- › Today a new command from the sermon on the mount; "Do not judge one another" (v.1)
- › An appropriate theme as we begin the journey of Lent

- › Do not be a fault-finder
- › Pursue a spirit of gentleness, Love and unity in Christ

## 1. Do Not Judge One Another

Matthew 7:1-2

Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

Matthew 7:1-2

### WHAT DOES THIS COMMAND REFER TO?

- › Not that we are prohibited from discernment - 'do not give pearls to swine' (7:6) - discerning theft, abuse, gossip, slander
- › Matthew 18:15-20 - gives a process for confronting wrongdoing

### JOIN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION

- › It is not just about the other person - we must transform ourselves
- › The point of Jewish Literature on 'measure out/measure in' used in different scenarios

"give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Luke 6:38

- › This is a call to self-examination before confronting anyone else

The word "judgmentalism" does not appear in all dictionaries, but it names a phenomenon we know all too well. Judgmentalism is a social sin; it is the habit of constantly finding fault with what others say and do.

It is a disease of the spirit. The critic arrogantly assumes a superiority that entitles him or her to assess the failings of others.

Douglas R. A. Hare



## II. A Parable Illustration

Matthew 7:3-4

### FROM THE CARPENTER'S WORKSHOP

- › *Speck (karpnos) – a tiny speck of wood or straw – something minute*
- › *Beam of wood/log (dokos) – a '2x4' in the eye!*

### OBSERVE (KAIANOEW)

- › *One cannot observe (v3b) correctly in this situation*
- › *Refers to the mind/thinking*

### THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON YOURSELF 1<sup>ST</sup>

- › *We are not to move from self-righteousness but compassion*
- › *From a position of forgiveness + God's mercy we flow out to others – we are all broken vessels*

*There is no force in the world better able to alter anything from its course than love. Ruskin's comment that you can get someone to remove his coat more surely with a warm, gentle sun*

*than with a cold, blistering wind is particularly apt. Meeting the world with a loving heart will determine what we find there.*

*Gregory Boyle*

### III. A Final Exhortation

Matthew 7:5

*You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.*

Matthew 7:5

#### HYPOCRITE

- › *A word from the theatre*
- › *Playing a part*
- › *It is not a game*

#### THE LOG IN YOUR EYE

- › *Feel the weight of your own brokenness – see your own struggle first*

- › *'Hypocrite' circles back to verse 1 – simply do not judge one another*
- › *If we do speak – we do so 'seeing clearly' (v5)*

#### AN EXAMPLE

- › *AA (addiction issues) – from a position of weakness one helps the other*
- › *Scolding/judging does not help – from our own powerlessness we can refresh the other*



## IV. Moving Forward

### I. DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

- › *It hinders rather than helps the process of reformation*

### II. PETTY FAULT FINDING ERODES RELATIONSHIPS

- › *It actually causes things to fall apart*

### III. IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE TRULY OBJECTIVE IN OUR CRITIQUE

- › *Hard to be impartial - we often see our own faults in others and judge vicariously*

### IV. AS A CHURCH THERE IS A SPECIAL NEED FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS

- › *Romans 2:1, 14:4*

### V. FORGIVENESS AND MERCY IS TO BE AT THE CORE OF ALL OUR ACTIONS

- › *We are not to create a double standard of judging others while excusing ourselves*