



PART 9: UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITIES OF JUDGEMENT

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## Sermon Notes

**Text:** Matthew 7:1-6

### Introduction:

How does Society's judgment line up with God's judgment?

Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."

### 1) Understanding and Defining Judgment:

i. Bible Dictionary of NIV Terms defines judgment as:

- a) a decision or opinion
- b) a decision of guilt or innocence made by a judge in the court of law; punishment decided on by a court
- c) a decision from God, especially the final judgment when God will reward those who believe in Him and condemn all others to hell.

ii. ) Comparisons:

- a) Judgment versus condemnation
- b) Judgment versus discipline
- c) Judgment out of anger

### 2) The Judgment of humanity (mankind)

i. A look at judgment throughout the scriptures

- ii. Errors of Judgment
- iii. The limitations of human judgment
  - a) We never know the whole facts or the whole person
  - b) It is almost impossible for anyone to be strictly impartial
  - c) No one is good enough to judge another. (We, as human beings, are all imperfect and we "all fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

### 3) God's Judgment

i) What the Scriptures say:

'Judgment' appears 294 times in scripture

2) The General Epistles are full of God's Judgment to come. (In particular see Jude)

### Conclusion:

The offset of judgment is humility; the partners of judgment are compassion and love

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Talk about the ways that people consistently judge each other (example: appearance). Why do we do this?
2. Think of someone who has judged you harshly or incorrectly. What was that like for you?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Luke 6:37-42. How, if at all, are these passages different from those we read in Matthew? Identify some of the words Luke uses that Matthew does not and discuss whether that changes the meaning for you.
2. Read Romans 2:1; 14:10 and 14:13 and discuss and respond the same as to Luke 6:37-42 above.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:5. How is the message in that scripture passage different from those of Matthew, Luke and Romans?
4. Dr. Pettinger believes that “The offset of judgment is humility and the partners of judgment are compassion and love”. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

### Application:

1. As a group, talk about the ways you might display Godly judgement.
2. What steps can we take to stop judging people unfairly?

### Prayer:

1. Pray that God will forgive us, and help us stop judging people unfairly.
2. Other requests
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