MESSAGE NOTES

Different: How The Church Lives – Part 12

***Dealing With A Critical Spirit***

**Matthew 7:1-5**

The word judge appears several times in Jesus’ teaching (Matthew 7:1-5). It comes from the Greek word “krino”, and this word appears 114 times in the New Testament. It is a word that appears in different contexts and can have a variety of meanings: to distinguish between some possibilities, to select something, to prefer something, to consider, to decide, ….

These words are talking about engaging our mental faculties in the process of discerning and reaching a decision, and the word can be used in a positive or negative way. In our passage we are looking at from the Sermon on the Mount this morning, this word is used with a negative connotation. It speaks of the judgment that one person would pass on another person and on their beliefs, behavior, words, actions. So, to judge in this passage means to pass an unfavorable judgment on someone, criticize someone, find fault with someone, and in its harshest form, to condemn someone.

What Jesus is saying in verse 1: “Do not judge, or you to will be judged.”, is if you are going to be my follower and be filled with my spirit, then I do not want you to be the kind of person who condemns others, or finds fault in them, or criticizes people with a critical spirit, or passes unfavorable judgments on those around you. And this is to be applied in every relationship of life.

**Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT):** “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. **2**For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

**3**“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? **4**How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? **5**Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

As a follower of Jesus, I should not judge others …

Unless I am prepared to be judged with the same spirit and standard that I am using to judge others. (Verses 1-2)

As a follower of Jesus, I should not judge others …

Until I have identified and corrected my own shortcomings. (Verses 3-5)

As a follower of Jesus, I should not judge others …

Because the basis of my judgment may not be true and is almost always incomplete.

The Bible tells followers of Jesus to build one another up rather than tearing one another down. We are to be like Jesus of whom John 1:14 tells us, *came from the Father full of grace and truth.*

See the story of Jesus in Matthew 9:12-13 (NLT)

What Jesus did NOT mean when he said “do not judge”… is that:

You and I should cease to develop and advocate for deeply held convictions based on the authority of God’s word even when doing so results in hatred from the world. (See John 15:18-19 & Matthew 5:11-12) BUT, we are to live in those convictions filled with love and grace.