



## Part 1: Good Judgment

Jesus taught his followers not to judge, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't have good judgement. What's the difference and how do we make sure we don't confuse the two?

### Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the phrase “*bad religion*” or “*hypocrisy*,” what examples or experiences (personal or observed) come to mind?
2. Read Matthew 23:2-4. According to Jesus, what specific behaviours characterize the scribes and Pharisees in these verses? What is the contrast between what they *say* and what they *do*, and what “burdens” do they place on others?
3. In Matthew 23:5-10, what do the enlarged phylacteries, long fringes, special seats, and titles (rabbi, father, instructor) reveal about their motivations? What does Jesus seem to be confronting —external practices or internal posture?
4. From the passages mentioned (Matthew 7:1-5, 15-20; Luke 6:37-42; Galatians 6:1; ), how would you describe the difference between *being judgmental* and *exercising good judgment*? What makes one destructive and the other restorative?
5. Jesus says to deal with the “plank” in your own eye first. What might that practically look like in your life right now? Where are you most tempted to criticize others while overlooking your own blind spots?

### Moving Forward

In this message, it was suggested that good judgment starts by looking at the cross and remembering the mercy we've received. How would your conversations, opinions, or corrections of others change if you consistently led with that posture of forgiveness and empathy?