

Study Guide



Matthew 7:1-6 – Judgement Not Judgmental

January 7, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

This week take some time to examine your heart, thoughts, actions. Ask the Lord to show you where you are playing judge or being a hypocrite. Ask the Lord to show you where you might be chasing a "speck" and ignoring the "log" in your own eye.

Calendar

January 31st— Youth Camp Registration
February 4th— Youth Super Bowl Party
February 5th— Camp in the City Registration
February 11th— Member's Meeting
March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group
March 16th- 18th— DNOW

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery](#)":

Come behold the wondrous mystery
in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises
robed in frail humanity.

In our longing, in our darkness
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended
took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering
never trace nor stain of sin.

See the true and better Adam
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.

See the price of our redemption;
see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory
grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery;
slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him;
praise the Lord; He is alive!

What a foretaste of deliverance;
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected
as we will be when he comes.

Commentary: Read Matthew 7:1-6

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus is speaking to his disciples teaching them what it means to be a citizen of Christ's kingdom. Teaching them about a righteousness that surpasses the scribes and the Pharisees. The righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees was purely an external righteousness. But Jesus says that it is not enough to be righteous on the outside if you are not also righteous on the inside. David Platt says, "Jesus is not demanding from his disciples more righteous deeds by human effort, but he is demanding more righteous hearts by divine grace and from these righteous hearts will come evidence of exceeding righteousness." He is saying, there will be some change in our life if we have been born again.

In the Fall we studied this exceeding righteousness that Jesus is talking about and saw this righteousness should be evident in our attitudes (Matt. 5:21-48), our desires (Matt. 6:1-18), and in our ambitions (Matt. 6:19-34). This week Jesus teaches our exceeding righteousness should also be evident in our relationships (Matt. 7:1-6).

Look at Matthew 7:1-5. Jesus in verse one warns us, "Judge not, that you be not judged." Jesus is not saying here that we never judge, that we never point out sin in other Christians lives, or that we never receive correction from others. John Stott says of this phrase, "This is not a command to suspend our critical faculties in relation to other people, to turn a blind eye to their faults, to eschew all criticism and to refuse to discern between truth and error, goodness and evil." **Christians are still to use our discernment, to encourage our brother and sisters and point out sinful habits, but we are not to judge others harshly.** We are not to search out faults in others being negative and destructive towards them giving no grace towards their faults. We are not the one sitting in the judgement seat, we are not the one to play God (1 Cor. 4:4-5). We are among the ones who will be judged. If we judge others then we are condemning ourselves because we are doing the very same things.

In verses 3-5, Jesus exposes our hypocrisy. All human beings are sinful, but because we are sinful we tend to excuse the sin in ourselves while condemning this sin in others (Rom. 2:1, 21-23). Jesus is even saying that people often excuse sins in themselves that are far worse than the sins they are judging in others. They focus on the speck in another's eye but do not address the log in their own eye. Our Christian duty is not to see the speck in our brother's eye while at the same time we do not notice the log in our own eye, but our Christian duty is to first take the log out of our own eye, so that then with the resulting clarity of vision we will be able to take the speck out of our brother's eye. **The cure for a judgmental attitude is an understanding of our own need for spiritual healing, righteousness, and mercy.** When we feel grieved and humbled over our own sin, when we evaluate ourselves first, then we can help and encourage others to remove their "speck."

As Christian we are to play neither the judge, or the hypocrite, but the brother, caring for others so much that we first blame and correct ourselves and then seek to be constructive in the help we give them. We need to be as critical of ourselves as we often are of others, and as generous to others as we always are to ourselves. God has already judged Jesus in our place. If we are united to Christ through his cross, our judgement is already behind us. Therefore we are free from judging others.

Discussion - Read Matthew 7:1-6

1. What were some takeaways from the sermon? What convicted you? What stood out to you? Explain.
2. Are there different kinds of judging (John 7:24)? Explain.
3. What kind of judging is Jesus rebuking here in Matthew 7:1-5? What does Jesus teach about judging? See also 1 Corinthians 4:4-5. Does He say we should never judge?
4. In what sense is it true that we will be judged according to the judgement we give (7:2)?
5. Explain the illustration of the speck and log (7:3-4). How does this help explain the meaning of hypocrisy? See also Romans 2:1, 21-23.
6. How did Jesus say we should avoid the error of judging others (7:5)? Did Jesus say to leave the speck in your brother's eye? Why should you examine your own life first? What are some ways you can examine your own life?
7. What are some ways you can lovingly confront someone about sin?
8. This week take some time to examine your heart, your thoughts, and your actions. Ask the Lord to show you where you are playing judge or being a hypocrite. Ask the Lord to show you where you might be chasing a "speck" and ignoring the "log" in your own eye. Seek repentance (To repent is to turn. It consists in a heart turning back to God and away from your idols (see 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 John 5:21). Write down a prayer in your journal and share with other believers what the Lord has shown you.

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach