

Humble, Holy Eyes

SCRIPTURE Matthew 7:1-2: “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus has moved from emphasizing our foremost affections as belonging to God exclusively (Matthew 6:19-34), to now directing our attention to our second great priority—*loving one another* (see also Matthew 22:37-39). He begins with a lesson about relating to one another in Christ-centered righteousness. To the Pharisees righteousness was composed of praise from others for their own religious devotion (6:1-2, 5, 16) and passing judgment on others for the weaknesses and failures of others (7:1-5). But throughout His sermon, Christ is concerned about inner righteousness. Discuss how an inner Christ-centered righteousness is humble and holy rather than haughty and critical of others.

2. Matthew 7:1 has been called the most popular verse among non-Christians. Identify and discuss the two reasons given that suggest why this verse is a favorite especially outside of the church.

3. Is Jesus saying it's wrong to judge between right and wrong (see Matthew 7:6, 16; 10:13-17; 18:15-20; John 7:24)?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

4. Jesus is teaching that children of God are not to be characterized by judgmental attitudes, by readiness to find fault in others, by hypocritical judgment, or by harsh, censorious, critical spirits. Martin Luther said that such is acting upon self-centered wisdom and is playing the judge—a role reserved for the only capable judge: God. Discuss how a critical spirit relates to pride. Consider the quote from Jonathan Edwards:

"A censorious spirit manifests a proud spirit ... If men were humbly sensible of their own failings they would not be very forward or pleased in judging others ... It has a show of persons' setting up themselves above others, as though they were fit to be the lords and judges of their fellow servants"

5. Read Romans 14:3, 10, 13 and discuss how it relates to 1 Corinthians 1:10. Read Romans 2:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 11:31 and discuss how these texts relate to our passage.
-
-
-
-

6. Jesus issues a caution to all who would be ready to find fault in a brother. He warns that all who judge will be judged. Certainly, those who die in their sins without the substitution of Christ will suffer God's judgement for their sins. In contrast, all who trust in Christ are redeemed, justified, forgiven, and reconciled to God, and therefore all the just punishment that was due to them for their sins has been poured out on Christ in His crucifixion. Thus, by grace received through faith, Christ delivers us from the just punishment we deserve (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9). But even the justified will give an account for their stewardship of grace (Romans 14:10-13; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15; 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10). The justified in Christ will not suffer condemnation for their sins (Romans 8:1), nevertheless they will give an account to Christ for the choices they made under His grace. Consider the quote from John Murray and discuss the importance of this principle of a believer's accountability before God.

"Reluctance to entertain the reality of this universal and all-inclusive judgment springs from preoccupation with what is conceived to be the comfort and joy of believers at the coming of Christ rather than with the interests and demands of God's glory. The latter should always be paramount in the outlook of the believer. And it should not be forgotten that, although God will bring evil as well as good into judgment, there will be no abatement of the believer's joy, because it is in the perspective of this full disclosure that the vindication of God's glory in his salvation will be fully manifest. It is only in the light of this manifestation that the believer's joy could be complete. Judgment involves severity and by this consideration the believer should always be actuated in the life of faith."

DISCUSSION GUIDE

7. Read Luke 18:9-14 and identify and discuss the principles taught in our passage.

8. Read Proverbs 6:16-17; 21:4; Isaiah 5:15 and 66:2. Discuss how the “eye” is sometimes used in Scripture to denote our spiritual outlook on all of life (see also Matthew 6:22-23), connecting it to the importance of humility and holiness in how we deal with our brothers and sisters, especially when they offend us (leading to Matthew 7:3-5).
