Building an Indestructible Life

*Hypocritical Judgements*

**Matthew 7:1-6**

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Matthew 7:1-6 is one of the most used passages by people to defend their actions when not wanting to yield to the will of God. If we approach someone who is either straying from the Christian life or someone who has not yet yielded their life to Christ they want to defend their actions by saying: “The Bible says you are not to judge,” or “Judge not that you be not judged.” This afternoon we want to take a few minutes to look more closely and see what Christ is actually saying to us.

1. Let us read verses 1 and 2. (slide)
2. “Judge not that you be not judged.”

1. Have you ever had this phrase quoted to you?
2. We need to be aware that when we approach people to discuss possible changes they need to make in their lives, their first response will be to put the microscope on our lives. They will want to discuss things they see in our life that need to be corrected. Be prepared!

 B. “For with what judgement you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure

 you use, it will be measured back to you.”

1. What do you think is meant by this phrase?

 2. I think of going to the farmer’s market and receiving a “baker’s dozen” ears

 of corn. Instead of receiving 12 ears of corn I may receive 13 or 14

 because the farmer wants to make sure all of the ears are good. Perhaps

 the farmer puts a few extra tomatoes in my basket because he wants to

 make sure there are no bad tomatoes at the bottom of the basket.

 3. The phrase “What goes around comes around!” comes to mind for me

 regarding verse 2.

II. What about verses 3 - 5? Let us read these verses. (slide)

 A. Visual Aid regarding plank and speck.

 B. Does Christ expect us to be perfect?

 1. The New Testament is more focused on attitudes and effort than on

 achieving perfection. The entire purpose of Christ’s coming was to forgive us

 of our sins. God knew we could not live a perfect life. Romans 3 makes it

 very clear that we have all sinned and that none of us are perfect. Christ is

 warning us again of hypocrisy. Christ is wanting us to have a self-reflective

 attitude. He wants us to always look at ourselves first!

 C. How would you define hypocrisy? (slide)

 1. In Matthew 23:28 (slide) a good definition of hypocrisy is given.

 2. There are many references in the New Testament that speak of hypocrisy

 (show slide with multiple references listed). These references speak to the

 importance of Christians maintaining their focus and priority of looking

 inwardly.

 3. We need to make sure that we are freely willing to admit our own mistakes

 and shortcomings and realize that we all need the grace that God has

 extended to us. We must always be willing to make changes in our lives so

 that our lives are in accordance to God’s will. As you previously studied with

 Lorenzo in more detail, God takes the sin of hypocrisy as seriously as any

 other sin. While humans may not know your attitude and private thoughts,

 make no mistake God always knows. We want to make sure we do not give

 anyone a reason to think, that *we think,* we are perfect or sinless.

III. Look at verse 6. (slide)

 A. Do you think these verses sound like a contradiction to other verses in the

 New Testament?

 B. We know that we are to try to teach others. (slide)

 C. Christ gives us similar warnings throughout the book of Matthew. (slide)

 D. We have the example of Paul. (slide)

 E. What do you think is meant by these warnings and examples?

 F. As you begin to find yourself dealing with more and more people, you will find

 that not everyone has the same love for the truth that you have displayed this

 weekend by coming to these classes. Unfortunately, not everyone that talks with

 you about religious matters is truly interested in following God’s will. We know that

 not everyone who calls on the name of the Lord truly loves the Lord. Christ is

 warning us not to waste time on “religious discussions” that really are not

 productive to the cause of Christ. Just as Christ and Paul sometimes had to walk

 away from situations, there will be times that we will have to walk away from a

 situation as well. Do not think that you have been “ashamed” of your Christianity

 just because you did not participate in a pointless conversation. While it may be

 difficult to determine these situations at first it will become more apparent to you in

 time.

IV. Summary (slide)

1. These verses are admonitions from Jesus to us. He wants us to always look

 inwardly and make sure that we are honest with ourselves. We must make

 sure that we live our Christian lives according to God’s will and not our own will!

 B. Christ also wants to protect us. He knows that not everyone will accept His will

 and enjoy the many promises that God gives to all men.