Judge Not

Greg Kline · Matthew 7:1–5

INTRODUCTION

- Matthew 7, verse 1 has to be the most popular Bible verse, I think, even beyond John 3.16.
- Because the first two words in Matthew chapter 7 and verse 1 are judge not.

1 What Lesson Is Jesus Teaching?

Matthew 7:1–2

- Much has been misused and abused from Matthew chapter 7 in those first two words in verse 1, judge not.
- That's not exactly what Jesus was getting at.
- Clearly there is a judgment we should not be pronouncing, or that we should at least be cautious in. And that would be hypocritical or unrighteous judgment.
- Verse 2, I think stands as a scary warning and practical advisement.
- Perhaps I should be more careful and considerate and give others the benefit of the doubt before judging them.

2 Giving Others the Benefit of the Doubt

- One woman took it upon herself to come over and say, Now that's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray.
- That older gentleman is a hero.
- I think sometimes we show all of those attributes and characteristics. That we give little children the benefit of the doubt.
- Can we be honest and say we at least think, if not say out loud, things like the woman did?

3 Not the Brother With the Log in Our Own Eye

Matthew 7:3–5; Matthew 7:13–14

- We view others who say or do things differently than us and we judge them harshly.
- We need to be very careful that as verse 3 and 4 illustrates, that we're not the brother with the log or the plank or the trunk in our own eye.
- It's one thing to say that we do have to make judgments, and we certainly do.
- Jesus says you have to choose, you have to make a judgment between the narrow way and the broad way that leads to destruction.
- Maybe we could be a little bit more kind, a little bit more gentle, and a whole lot more loving and merciful with others.

THE CHALLENGE

Can we look at others with the same love and benefit of the doubt we want from others and most importantly God?

MY NOTES