

April 11 & 14, 2024



Out of Context – Week #1 “Don’t Judge”

Three Keys to Biblical Interpretation:

- 1. Understand the context. (<https://bibleproject.com>)**
- 2. Let scripture interpret scripture.**
- 3. The goal is application, not merely information!**

Matthew 7:1 (NIV)

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

Matthew 6:2 (NIV)

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

Matthew 7:15-16a (NIV)

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 7:2-6 (NIV)

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. ⁶ “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Understanding the delicate work of judging correctly:

1. Don’t judge hypocritically! (Matthew 7:2-5)

Romans 2:1 (NIV)

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

- The place where you issue your harshest judgement often reveals your deepest sin!

2. Don’t judge non-Christians by Christian standards! (Matthew 7:6)

1 Corinthians 5:12 (NIV)

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

- For unbelievers the problem is not the speck but the need for a Savior.
- The goal is conversion to Christ before persuasion to your point of view!

3. Don’t judge superficially!

John 7:24 (NIV)

Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

- Don’t judge others based on your own personal preferences.

4. Don't neglect judging other believers! (Matthew 7:5)

Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

- You judge someone not when you assess their position, but when you dismiss them as a person.
- Gently judging believers is a part of their spiritual growth.

James 5:19-20 (NIV)

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

- It's what you do after you tell someone the truth that determines if you are condemning or judging correctly!
- Truth without grace is damaging!
- Grace without truth is dangerous!
- Grace and truth are the gospel!