

Pastor Notes "Happiness is Red Letter Living"

Rev. Ryan Young

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Mathew 7:1 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?4Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. 6Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

Questions

Why is it that non-Christians know this verse?

Is it an appropriate use of what Jesus was saying?

I. Jesus attracted sinners.

Why is that? They did not feel judged by him.

A. The more serious you become about religion, the more dangerous is the temptation to judge.

1. Before you say, "Well I am not religious," let me define what religion is. It is having a set belief about God and having a corresponding practice of worship.
2. Because you're religious and you know some stuff and have a corresponding practice of worship, you start thinking of yourself as an expert.
3. The Pharisees were the religious experts of their day. They knew it, and so did everybody else.
4. Have you ever felt that you knew something or more about something than others?

B. When we feel like we know more than our contemporaries, we can't help but to judge. Never are we more like the Pharisees than when we do this.

C. How do we resist judging other people?

1. Stop thinking of yourself as an expert.
"There are no experts in the company of Jesus. We are all beginners and necessarily just followers of Jesus." Eugene Petersen

2. Judging others is not our job description.
“Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”
 (James 5:9)
 3. The internet has enhanced the idea that we all have to have an opinion about everything. Do you agree or disagree?
- II. Jesus seems to want to get rid of categorizing people as good and bad when it comes to human beings.
- A. It seems we almost instinctively know how to divide people this way.
 A young man approached Jesus and said, "Good teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life...Jesus said, ‘Why do you call me good, No one is good except God.’" (Luke 18:18-19)
 - B. If Jesus does divide people, it is more on the basis of proud and humble.
 - C. Within the church there is some call for some judgment, discernment; this is complicated, but it takes what Paul calls someone who is spiritual.
It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. (I Cor 5:12 NLT)
 Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another...."
 1. Why are we not to judge those outside the church?
 2. How do you think the church has been misguided by attempting to make America a Christian nation?
- III. If you do find it necessary to judge someone, there is something you need to keep in mind.
Mathew7:1 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.”
- A. The judgment you use will be measured back to you.
 1. If you have to judge, show abundant amounts of mercy. Isn't that how you would want to be judged?
Mathew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy."
 James 2:13 "Judgment will be without mercy on him who showed no mercy."
 Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- B. Here is the double standard when we judge others.
We tend to judge ourselves by our good intentions, but we judge others by what they actually do.
1. Jesus says you do not get judged by the standard you use on yourself, but by the standard you use on everyone else.
 2. Is it possible to be too merciful?
If in doubt, to which side do you lean, judgment or mercy?
 3. Harsh, critical people who give no mercy to others are upset.
Always comparing themselves; insecure.
- C. We do not produce disciples of Jesus through merciless criticism and shaming.
1. The only people Jesus criticized were those who used criticism and shame to control other people.
 2. Control is the real issue.
 3. Jesus uses humor to make a point.
Mathew 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"
 4. Our analysis may be correct, but what about the log in our own eye?
How can a person be unaware of a log in their eye? PRIDE
The log represents sins of the religious practitioners, sins that they don't see in themselves. They are almost always unaware of them.
- D. What does this mean?
- Mathew 21:31 "Jesus said to them, 'Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.'"**
1. How do the secular and immoral enter the Kingdom before the religious?
 2. **Perhaps being bad is not a major hindrance for entering the Kingdom of God, but being proud is.**
Bad people only need to humble themselves and God will have mercy.
Micah 6:8 on our website says, "What does the Lord require, do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."
 3. The proud cannot humble themselves because their very problem is their pride.

IV. Final thoughts

Luke 18:9 "And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' I tell you, this man went to his house

justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- A. The Pharisee is an observant Jew; these are the ones who would understand us today, what we do, etc., while the tax collector is completely secular and doesn't go to church.
 - 1. What does the Pharisee say to himself?
 - 2. How does the Tax collector judge himself?

- B. Some final thoughts about this verse in its context.

³³ "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Math 6:33-34)

 - 1. Jesus had just been talking about things that produce anxiety and fear.
 - a. Money, provision, what to wear etc.
 - b. The future
 - c. How does the compulsion to judge others produce **anxiety**?
 - 2. If someone does something better than you or gets noticed more than you, how do you respond?

- C. Parents, please do not raise your children by a performance-based Christianity where you use criticism and shame in an attempt to control them. There will be one of two possible results.
 - 1. You will induce rebellion.
 - 2. You will perpetuate your own tribe of little Pharisees. (hypocrites)

- D. Who are the Pigs and dogs?

Mathew 7: 6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

 - 1. In some religious circles, this verse is used to restrict who can receive communion.
 - 2. Some say it is a lesson about wasteful spending, a continuation of Jesus teaching on Mammon.
 - 3. Some say Animals such as dogs and pigs cannot appreciate religion, and this verse implies that there is some class of humans who cannot either.

- E. An explanation offered by Dallas Willard (Book Divine Conspiracy)

Jesus is not speaking of a wonderful treasure (the pearl), or whether the audience is fit to have it (the swine). Instead, he is pointing out that the pearl is not helpful.

"Pigs cannot nourish themselves upon pearls."

He concludes that this reflects "our efforts to correct and control others by pouring out our good things" that our audience is not ready for. That all our seemingly good intentions will ultimately yield anger, resentment and attack.

In other words, Jesus is exposing what happens when we, by our self-superiority, think other people need advice they have not asked for.

"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy" Mathew 5:7

Prayer

Father in heaven, help me not to judge others with merciless criticism. Holy Spirit, reveal to me areas of pride that are as logs in my eyes and keep me from seeing my brother/sister in Christ. As I seek your righteousness, let my heart be quick to love mercy and leave all judgment to you in this world and the world to come. May peace reign in my heart as I cast all my anxiety upon you, through Jesus Christ my Lord I pray. AMEN