



TIME OF GRACE®

Out of Context: "Do Not Judge"

Study Notes

Summary

Some have said that Jesus' words about judging are the most famous in modern America, surpassing even John 3:16. Jesus did indeed say, "Judge not!" but make sure to read the context. Jesus was not against being judgmental. Yet he was very against the hypocrisy of many judgmental people who overlook their own flaws in a zealous attempt to point out the flaws of others. His words, clearly understood, encourage us to look in the mirror first and judge others in love afterward.

- **Matthew 7:1:** Stop judging.
- All people spend all day being _____.
- **Matthew 7:1-2:** ¹Stop judging so that you will not be judged. ²Otherwise, you will be judged by the same standard you use to judge others. The standards you use for others will be applied to you.
- **Matthew 7:3,4:** ³So why do you see the piece of sawdust in another believer's eye and not notice the wooden beam in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to another believer, "Let me take the piece of sawdust out of your eye," when you have a beam in your own eye?
- Why are Christians quick to judge?
 1. We know their sin is _____.
 2. We think our sin is _____.
- **Matthew 7:5:** You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye. Then you will see clearly to remove the piece of sawdust from another believer's eye.
- **Matthew 7:6:** Don't give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls to pigs. Otherwise, they will trample them and then tear you to pieces.
- In context, Jesus said, "Do not judge . . . _____!"
- How?
 1. _____ (the Bible)

2. _____ (church)
3. _____ (other Christians)

Points to Ponder

1. Some people, like the Pharisees, are very quick to judge the behavior of fellow Christians. Others, like the Corinthians (refer to 1 Corinthians 5), never judge anyone's behavior. Which temptation is greater for you? Why do you suppose you judge so quickly or not at all?
2. Think of a time that someone confronted you for your behavior. Did they approach you in the way Jesus describes in Matthew chapter 7? What could have made the conversation more effective?
3. **Evaluate:** The key to judging Jesus' way is to realize that God has had mercy on you, a sinner.

Homework for Next Week

Read Matthew 18:15-20.

*"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking.
The way to trouble God is not to come at all."
—D. L. Moody*