
DANGERS OF JUDGING OTHERS

Matthew 7:1-6

by Daniel A. Brown, PhD

“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 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? Or 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? You 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.

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. ~Matthew 7:1-6

As part of the “*Sermon on the Mount*,” this passage of scripture is spoken to a group of people who eagerly seek instructions about how to access the miracle power they have seen functioning through Jesus when He teaches and performs miracles. Jesus has introduced them to another Kingdom which functions according to principles and truths that differ radically from those that govern this natural world.

Jesus has been talking about several natural tendencies that we humans have—commonly held perspectives that need to change if we are going to live His way of life. Jesus has been...

- Congratulating the people in seemingly undesirable circumstances.
- Pressing the issue of morality beyond outward behavior.
- Correcting misconceptions about true spirituality.
- Teaching people how to pray with power.

- Encouraging people to serve God rather than mammon.

Now Jesus turns the discussion to one of the most tempting and troubling traps into which human beings fall—being critical and judgmental toward others. Whether borne out of our insecurity, self-righteousness or pride, our judgments toward others are not just harmless opinions. According to Jesus, they actually set us up for unpleasant consequences in our own lives.

JESUS OFFERS US TWO VERY GOOD REASONS FOR NOT BEING JUDGMENTAL

- The more exacting our judgment is of others—the more exacting God's assessment will be of us.
- The more critical we are of others—the less we see the things that are wrong with us.