Judging Others

Matthew 7:1-3 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For by the standard you judge you will be judged, and the measure you use will be the measure you receive. Why do you see the speck in your brother’s eye, but fail to see the beam of wood in your own?

I think everyone knows this verse as “Do not judge others or you will be judged”. We are all guilty of judging people. We judge people that are different than us (Skin, cloths, hair, the way we vote, the friends we have, the way we think, …). We judge people who drive slower than us and we judge people who drive faster than us. We judge people who make more money than us and we judge people who make less money than us (we call them Bums, free loaders, drug addicts). We judge people who believe anything different than we do. Sometimes we just can’t help judging and we justify it by saying “We are just telling the truth”.

The Problem is, in all these cases, we become the standard in which we judge other people against. It is as if we put ourselves in Gods place to judge what is good and what is bad. Isn’t this what Adam did in the Garden of Eden. He wanted to be able to Judge what is good and evil and not trust Gods judgement.

We all know the verse: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Luke 6:31). This says we are to treat people the way we want to be treated but in Matthew 7:2 it says you will be judged by the standard and measure you judge. So the way you treat others is how **you will be** treated. You will receive the same judgment you give.

 I think most people would think twice about judging others if they knew God was Judging them with the same standards they used to judge others. We all fail by Gods standards yet he offers Love in return.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

 When we judge others, or look down on their situations, we open the door for the very same thing to happen to us. Perhaps when young and youthful we look down on people who look different or in certain situations and then years later we find ourselves in the same situation or something similar (Like Bald). In the same way if you walk around angry all the time you will find people are always angry with you and if you walk around with a smile it is contagious and others will smile back.

If you know of an area of your life where you have criticized or frowned on others, do yourself a favor and repent of it now before you find yourself in their shoes.

**So I have a story** or maybe a confession: I was driving down the road in my nice truck one day (Many years ago) and noticed an old beater truck next to mine making all kinds of weird noises. In my head I was thinking if that were my truck I would be embarrassed. He should take it in and get it fixed.

Well God decided to use this as an opportunity for growth as he so often does by picking the best time and circumstance to do just that. Well just as I was thinking this thought in my head my truck starts making this extremely loud horrible banging noise. So loud that the guy in the other truck was looking at me and I am sure he was thinking “At least my truck doesn’t sound like that”. I immediately knew that this was a lesson from God and could see his disappointed face looking down on me saying “come on! You know better than that”. Needless to say I try to be very careful about not judging people now days. I am not perfect! But I do try. **\*\*\***

Our Verse in Matthew also says “Why do you see the speck in your brother’s eye, but fail to see the beam of wood in your own?”. As a kid, I used this verse all the time whenever someone said anything bad about me. I don’t think I even understood what it meant but it sounded good. We often pick a part other people’s small issues to make ourselves feel better about our giant issues. It is like telling someone they have ugly shoes because we are uncomfortable with how we look and want to take the attention off of us and put it on someone else.

Only God is able to judge justly as he is the only one that is pure and good. We should all compare ourselves to him and strive to be like him. But instead we look at God and question his judgement asking how he can judge us and deal out punishment and even damnation. And he calls himself a loving God?

To understand God we have to understand that a good, just and righteous God must punish those who break His commandments. If God does not punish those who do wrong, then He would be unjust, unrighteous and break his own laws. Just as a parent should punish their child for doing something intentionally wrong, so must God punish those who do wrong.

I know you are thinking “what about sending people to eternal damnation?” What kind of punishment should be reserved for someone who breaks the law and is not sorry or someone who has complete disregard for the law and the authority who created those laws. On earth we sentence people to life in prison or even the death penalty.

 With that thought in mind let’s take a little test. If you were to defiantly break one of your Parents rules do you think they could send you into eternal darkness and suffering? Maybe you didn’t do your chores or maybe you didn’t call home when you were told to. Maybe you did something really bad like stealing something? Could your parents do it?

I would tend to believe that every Good parent would more than willingly die in place of their Children not because their children are perfect and do everything they ask them to but because they love them despite what they do wrong.

There is a story about a Judge who was overseeing a court room when a young lady was called to the stand. The Bailiff read the charges against this women: “Found speeding 40 miles an hour in a school zone”. The judge asked her “Guilty or Not Guilty”. The Woman responded “Guilty.” The Judge Sentenced her to two weeks in jail or $400 dollars fine and asked her which she would choice. The Woman answered I do not have that much money. Then the Judge did something amazing. He stepped down from the podium, took off his judges’ robe and walked over to the Clerk and paid the fine. It turned out the judge was the young lady’s father. The Young Lady could have said “no” I don’t accept his payment and will serve my time in jail but she accepted her fathers payment.

This is exactly what God did through Jesus Christ. He is our Father and He loves us even though we do bad things and He was willing to die for us so we could live. It was through this act that God could spare his children from damnation but still be a just and righteous God.

**🡪But his children have to except this payment for it to work**

God will give the same people that have wronged us, and that we have judged, the same opportunity for forgiveness that we have if they just ask for it. This includes rapist, murders and bullies. All of their past deeds will be wiped out if they just repent, just like he offers us. Many people have a hard time excepting this fact.

In the story of Jonah (And the whale) he wanted Nineveh to be destroyed. Nineveh was an Assyrian city and the Assyrians severely persecuted the Jews. This was like asking a Jew to go to Hitler and asking him to repent. Jonah had already judged them and felt they deserved God’s judgment. Jonah didn’t want to see God’s mercy extended to these enemies, and he knew that God intended to show mercy. Jonah discovered that God’s salvation is available to all who repent, not just to the people of our choosing.

God loves everyone and wishes that none would ever be lost. God loves you, those that dislike you, and those that are different from you. None that repent will get what they deserve.

 God never meant for mankind to sin but he gave us a choice and we choose independence from him. We wanted to be in control. We want to be the judge but then we get angry when we have to suffer the results of our sin and wonder why God doesn’t step in and save us. So God gave us a second chance to turn back to him by sending Jesus. We still have to suffer what is wrong with this world but we can make the decision to have all that is right in the next.

* **We need to choose the way of the cross, where mercy triumphs over justice every time because of Gods love for us.**

Luke 6:36 “Therefore be merciful, even as your Father is also merciful. Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Set free, and you will be set free. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. “

This sort of sounds like a drink and the visualization we should get here is God’s Love and blessings being poured out on us. Not just one blessing being given but so many blessings that they are being poured out.

God does not want to send anyone to damnation so he provided a way we just need to accept that we Sin and ask for his forgiveness in Jesus.

When we accept Jesus he stands in our place so when God looks at us he does not see our sin. He only sees his son Jesus pure and holy.

So before you are about to Judge someone picture Jesus standing in their place (Whether they are Christian or not because Jesus loves us all) and approach them with love. Maybe say a prayer for them instead of passing judgement.

If someone Judges you, don’t attack back, just smile and say “How can you see the speck in my eye, but fail to see the beam of wood in your own?”. Maybe it will open up an opportunity to tell them about Christ.

(Disclaimer: I don’t recommend doing this to armed hillbillies, Psychotic bullies, enraged police officers, your parents or anyone bigger than yourself)

**Read Romans 14**