

Huh?

Part Eleven: *judge, pray, love*

May 21, 2023

By the time of Christ, the Pharisees' traditions had taken such a hold on Judaism that they had replaced the Scriptures as the guide for life. The Pharisees taught their truth instead of God's truth and condemned anyone that opposed them. They looked down on anyone who did not live like them (Luke 18:11-14).

- **In Matthew 7:1-5, Jesus tells us how to judge properly.**

Jesus isn't telling us to not judge people; He is telling us to not judge people like the scribes and Pharisees judged people! We know this for two reasons. One, the entire Sermon on the Mount is Jesus evaluating, criticizing, and condemning the scribes and Pharisees for their wrong beliefs and behavior. Two, the New Testament has tons of verses that say we should judge people by their words and actions to see if they are living for God (Matthew 7:15; 18:15-20; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:11; 2 John 10-11).

How are you to judge people?

1st – You are to judge people by their words and actions.

2nd - You are to use the Bible to judge people. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3rd – You are to evaluate your own life before you evaluate others.

4th - You are to use judgment to help people.

The Pharisees judged people so they could condemn them, but you are to use judgment to call people to repentance so they can live better lives and serve God. Vs. 6 means you should not waste the precious Word of God on people who are viciously opposed to it (2 Peter 2:1-3). People who reject the truth are dangerous and condemn themselves (Titus 3:10-11).

- **In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus tells us how to pray properly.**

Earlier in this sermon Jesus gave us a model for prayer (Matt. 6:9–13). Now he stops to tell us to keep praying because our Heavenly Father wants to bless us. Jesus tells us God delights in giving good gifts to those who keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking.

What do you need to do to receive good gifts from God?

1st – You must be a child of God.

A person must be born again spiritually to become a child of God and added to the family of God (Eph. 2:19; 1 John 3:10; 5:2). God is only your Heavenly Father if you have been born again into His family!

2nd - You must keep asking for gifts.

God wants us to exercise our faith in Him before He gives us gifts (James 1:7-8). Then, we will give Him praise and thanksgiving when He gives us the good gifts we asked for.

3rd - You must be obedient to your Heavenly Father.

Disobedient children do not deserve good gifts. You must keep God's commandments and do the things that please Him to get the gifts you desire (1 John 3:22).

4th – You must have the right motives.

God does not give good gifts to selfish, self-centered, spoiled brats! You must ask God for gifts that bring Him glory if you want to receive good gifts from your Heavenly Father (James 4:3).

5th – You must be submissive to your Heavenly Father's will.

God only gives good gifts to His children. Gifts that make our lives better, bring us closer to the people we should be close to, and closer to God (1 John 5:14).

- **In Matthew 7:12, Jesus tells us how to love properly.**

This well-known verse is referred to as the Golden Rule, but it is just a paraphrase of the second Great Commandment – “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39).

What do you need to understand to love others?

1. The Golden Rule is not, “*Do to others as they do to you.*”

Jesus does not want you to live reactionary; He wants you to love others in the manner you want to be loved! This is how you show the world God's love (John 13:34-35)!

2. You must submit to the Holy Spirit to love others.

As a selfish sinner, you will not always have the desire or the ability to love others properly. You must submit to God's Spirit each day to bear the fruit of love (Gal. 5:22; Rom. 5:5; 1 John 4:19).

Some Personal Questions...

1. *Are you judging properly?*

2. *Are you praying properly?*

3. *Are you loving properly?*