

Spiritual Ophthalmology

Matthew 7:1-5

- I. A Disciple's Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
 - II. A Disciple's Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
 - III. A Disciple's Righteousness: Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:17-48)
 - IV. A Disciple's Piety: Three Religious Practices (6:1-18): Giving, Praying, Fasting
 - V. A Disciple's Commitments: Four Contrasting Choices (6:19-34)
 - A. Heavenly treasure rather than earthly treasure (19-21)
 - B. Eternal perspective rather than a temporal perspective (22-23)
 - C. Service to God rather than enslavement to money (24)
 - D. Advancing God's kingdom rather than acquiring stuff (25-34)
 - VI. A Disciple's Relationships (7:1-20)
 - A. To spiritual siblings (7:1-5)
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I. The Disciple is not to be a _____ (1-2)

- A. What Jesus is NOT forbidding
 - 1. The execution of justice in society
 - 2. Suspension of _____ faculties (see 1 Cor. 5:5; Gal. 1:8ff; Phil 3:2; 1 John 4:1; John 7:24)
 - B. What IS forbidden: a _____ (Censoriousness)
 - 1. The intent: to find _____ and _____.
 - 2. Fallacy: Assuming the _____ to pass judgment (See Romans 14:1-4; 10-13)
 - a. Judging is not my _____ – it is God's (1 Cor. 4:1-5)
 - 1) I do not have all the _____.
 - 2) I am doing it _____ – at the midway point in the process
 - b. I am among the _____ (Mat. 7:1-2)
 - 3. A warning: Each person will be judged by the same _____ he employs in judging others
- Summary: I am not to judge because I am _____.
- Transition: I am not to judge because I am _____.

II. The Disciple is not to be a _____ (3-4)

- A. Tendency #1: To _____ our own faults and to _____ the faults of others (Luke 18:9-14)
- B. Tendency #2: To _____ our faults on to others and judge them (2 Samuel 12:1-7)

III. The Disciple is to be a Brother (5)

- A. The preceding verses are not a command to “_____.”
- B. How to be my brother's keeper.
 - 1. Step 1: Self-_____
 - Beatitudes – “Blessed are the poor in spirit . . . , those who mourn, the meek, the merciful”
 - Attitude of love: 1 Cor. 13; 1 Pet 4:8.
 - 2. Step 2: Other-_____ (Rom. 14:19; Gal 6:1-2)

IV. Kingdom Lessons

A. What are the likely consequences of “condemnation engineering?”

- _____ assessment on the part of the “corrector.”
- Defensive resistance and _____ on the part of the “patient.”
- _____ relationship as a result of the confrontation
- No _____ for the original problem.

B. Who is especially vulnerable to the temptation to be judgmental?

- Anyone who operates primarily on a _____ as the basis for worth or value.
- People who are highly _____ as a result of exceptional personal attributes and hard work.
- Victims of _____ treatment are prone to project that same attitude onto others.
- _____ of abusive treatment are prone to project that same attitude onto others.
- _____ people might be more critical of others because of their need to be “right.”
- A person who has a _____ understanding of someone else’s circumstances.
- _____ are sometimes intolerant of those still enslaved by their old habit.
- Immature Christians who are both zealous and _____ – seeing everything in black and white.
- Anyone who has not been deeply touched by _____.

C. Where is a judgmental spirit most likely to be expressed?

- _____
- Parents (and other authority figures) “_____” children (or those “under” them).
- _____-berating statements

D. The need for a _____ place – because a dominant message of the world is “You don’t _____ up!”

E. Some helpful distinctions (from Neal Anderson in *Victory Over the Darkness*)

1. I am responsible to develop my own character and to respond to the needs of others. I am not responsible to change the character of others; nor am I to manipulate them to meet my needs.
2. I must distinguish between sin (biblically defined behavior) and differences of conviction or opinion. I am not to become someone else’s conscience.
3. If I am in a position to legitimately respond to someone else’s sin, I am to discipline behavior without disparaging character.

F. How can I constructively “up-build” my brother?

- Convince him that you are _____.
- Create an environment for change: _____
- Be understanding – he is “_____”
- Share how God’s grace has helped you with your “_____.”
- Give room and time to grow. _____ imperfection and mistakes.
- _____ for him.