

Mt.7.1-6 “Stop Criticizing”
Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #88
July 26, 2020

the perspective of this passage is given in contrast to that of the scribes & Pharisees,

- ✚ vv.1–6 focus on the negative aspect of a self-righteous, judgmental spirit,
- ✚ vv.7–12 focus on the positive aspect of a spirit that is humble, trusting, and loving.

These twelve verses form the divine summation of all the principles of right human relations.

When an individual or a group of people develop their own standards of religion & morality, they inevitably judge everyone by those self-made beliefs & standards.

The scribes and Pharisees were:

- unmerciful,
- unforgiving,
- unkind,
- censorious – “test of fellowship”

This passage has erroneously been used to suggest that believers should never evaluate or criticize anyone for anything. This provides a convenient escape from confrontation.

Only right doctrine, can teach us what true holiness, unity, & fellowship ... are—and are not.

Yet at no time in the history of the Church, or of ancient Israel, was spiritual & moral reformation achieved apart from confrontation & conflict.

Reformation is needed when spiritual & moral life are low. The power of sin, (unbeliever or believer), is opposed to righteousness & will always resist God’s truth & God’s standards.

No more controversial or judgmental sermon has ever been preached.

This greatest sermon by our Lord teaches that His followers are to be discerning and perceptive in what they believe & in what they do

- Every message we hear is to be judged for the soundness of its doctrine (Ga.1.8; II Jn.10–11).
- Not to rebuke sin is a form of hatred, not love (Le.19.17; Mt.18.15; He.5.14).
- Jesus refers to the judgment of motives, Ro.14.13).

What Jesus here forbids is condemnation based on human standards & human understanding.

I. A MISTAKEN VIEW OF GOD v.1

- To judge another person’s motives or to condemn is to play God (Jn.5.22).
- We blaspheme God whenever we take upon ourselves the role of judge (Ro.14.4; I Co.4.3–4).
- (Except as they may be teaching false doctrine or following standards that are clearly unscriptural;))

We are never to judge a person’s ministry, teaching, or life—&
certainly not his motives—by a self-styled standard (Ja.4.11–12).

The Savior calls for men to renounce the presumptuous temptation to try to be God.