

**Date:** November 17, 2019  
**Series:** The Sermon on the Mount

## LOOK AT THINGS GOD'S WAY

(Matthew 7:1-12)

**Before we** read our text in Matthew 7:1-12, I want to remind you of what we have learned over the last few weeks from Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

**In Matthew 5**, we saw Jesus's teaching on how we are to properly relate **to others**.

In Matthew 6, we saw Jesus's teaching on how we are to properly relate **to God**.

---Live for God's approval and not the applause of other people (6:1-18).

---Put God ahead of money and lay up treasure in heaven (6:19-34).

Now this morning, we continue our study of how to relate to God properly starting with Matthew 7:1.

**Matthew 7:1-12**-----<sup>1</sup> "**Judge not, that** you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. <sup>3</sup> And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> **Or how can** you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup> "**Do not give** what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces. <sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> **Or what man** is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! <sup>12</sup> **Therefore, whatever** you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

**The great pastor**, author, and radio preacher who has blessed so many of our lives, Chuck Swindoll, shared the following story about just how wrong he was about an incident that occurred at a Christian camp he spoke at.

At this camp in California where he was speaking all week, Chuck Swindoll was approached on the very first day by a man who told him about how much he had looked forward to hearing him speak in person and how glad his was that this had finally happened.

That evening as he began to preach, Dr. Swindoll noticed the man sitting near the front. But only a few minutes into the message the man was sound asleep. Swindoll thought to himself that he was probably tired after a long day's drive and couldn't help himself. But the same thing happened the next few nights, and Dr. Swindoll found his exasperation with the man

growing. The same man that went on and on about how excited he was to hear him speak slept through most of every message he brought that week.

On the last night of the week, the man's wife came up and apologized for her husband's inattention to the messages. She then explained that he had recently been diagnosed as having terminal cancer and that the medication he was taking to ease the pain made him extremely sleepy. But she assured him that it had been one of her husband's life-long ambitions to hear him speak before he died, and now he had fulfilled that goal.

Sometimes, we make a mess of things, don't we? We see things and react to them only to find out later that we were totally wrong about what we saw.

A verse that is applicable here is one that we have all read and heard sermons on—**1 Samuel 16:7**:

"...the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

And what we see in our text this morning in Matthew 7:1-12 is that God's will for every one of us who call ourselves His followers is to look at the people and circumstances around us—as well as life itself—with **His** eyes and with **His** perspective, and not with the eyes of our own fallen human natures.

**Title:** Look at Things God's Way

**(Prayer)**

Dr. Voddie Baucham is a greatly-loved pastor and speaker from Spring, Texas. In a message Dr. Baucham gave to his church family, he said believed that in modern times, the most famous Bible verse is no longer John 3:16. He now believes that in the world in which we live, the most famous and most quoted verse is Matthew 7:1. (You may not know what that verse says, but you will recognize it the minute you hear it.) Matthew 7:1 says: "Judge not, that you be not judged." **Baucham said:**

The shorthand for this new John 3:16 is quite simple: *Don't judge me*. That's our attitude both inside and outside the church. In fact, we use this as a baseline for establishing genuine love. Genuine love is a love that doesn't judge. Genuine love is a love that receives me just as I am. If you are judging me, you are not loving me.

Of course, this is NOT what Jesus meant when He said, "Judge not!" He did not mean: "Disregard the behavior of others even if it is wrong."

So what exactly did He mean?

### **1. We should avoid making knee-jerk or harsh critiques of others (7:1-6)**

One time the famous evangelist John Wesley was bent out of shape about a Christian he knew who he considered to be a cheapskate and stingy. What had

happened is that Wesley took up a special offering for a good cause and saw that this man's offering was next to nothing. Wesley was not only upset with this guy, he called him on the carpet publicly!!! The man said nothing in response but later went to Wesley privately and told him that he had been living on carrots and water for several weeks. Before he was saved, he owed a lot of people money that he never paid back. But once he had gotten saved, he realized that it was not right to leave his debts unpaid and he began—one-by-one—to pay all of them back. The man told Wesley: "Christ has made me an honest man, and so, with all of these debts to pay, I can only give a few offerings above my tithe. I must settle up with my unsaved friends and show them what the grace of God can do in the heart of a man who was once dishonest."

What Jesus is telling us here is that we need to be very hesitant to judge others—to be critical of them and to ridicule them—since we often don't know their motives or their circumstances.

In fact, Jesus said in v. 3: "Take the log out of your own eye before you try to pull the toothpick out of your brother's eye." In other words, quit jumping on others for their small faults when you have giant faults of your own that you aren't dealing with. In v. 2, Jesus said, the level of judgment you hammer others with is the level of judgment YOU will get in return.

So the first way we should look at things God's way is by avoiding knee-jerk or harsh critiques of others.

But there is another way we can look at things God's way in this text, and this has to do with the matter of prayer. You see, a lot of people ask God for a certain thing and when they don't get exactly what they asked for, they sometimes feel as if God cheated them in some way or that He didn't really answer their prayers:

Sometimes they **ask** for a certain thing they need...

Or, they **seek** because they need to find something...

Or, they **knock** that a door of opportunity might be opened to them.

And when they don't get exactly what they asked, sought, or knocked for, they get discouraged.

But what all of us need to know is this—God always responds to our prayers, but—wisely—not always to exactly what we request.

Another way we need to see things God's way is this:

**2. Realize that God may not give us exactly what we pray for, but He will always give us something good in response to good requests.**

V. 11 says: “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good things** to those who ask Him!”

Chuck Sackett, a pastor in Lincoln, Illinois told the following amazing story. He said...

I grew up outside the church, but when I learned about the “God and Country” award in the Boy Scouts, I wanted it. If that meant going to church, then that's what I determined to do.

Each week I walked from my house to the little church building on the next block. I walked past the Rinards' home every time, and later, I worked for the Rinards, doing yard work. I attended that little church on the next block just long enough to get the award, and then I quit.

Twelve years later, after I became a Christian and a preacher, I learned that Mr. and Mrs. Rinard were in a nursing home nearby. Out of friendship for the family, my wife and I decided to pay them a visit.

After a delightful visit, Gail and I turned to leave. I don't remember which one of them spoke, but I'll never forget what they said: **"Do you remember when you used to walk to that little church? We've not missed one day since, praying that God would do something in your life."**

Then Sackett said this: “For 12 years, this elderly couple prayed for me **every day**—prayed that God would one day do something in my life. I had no other Christian influence in my life at that time, but eventually I became a Christian and a preacher. I was prayed into the kingdom. There is simply no other explanation.”

The Rinards asked God to do “something” in a boy’s life, and the good gift that the Father gave them in response to their prayer request was the salvation and later surrender to God of the young man they prayed for!

**If you and I are going to look at things God’s way, we will need to pray and leave the answer in God’s hands knowing that He gives GOOD GIFTS to those that ask Him!**

#1---We see things God’s way when we refuse to ridicule others in judgment and #2---we see things God’s way when we pray and leave the answers in God’s hands.

There is one more way here that we can see things God’s way, and it is found in v. 12: “...**whatever you want** men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

**3. By always treating others the way we would want to be treated**

In Seymour Hersh's not-so-flattering book on President John F. Kennedy entitled *The Dark Side of Camelot*, he tells the story of the death of Kennedy's son Patrick, who was born prematurely and died of a lung ailment.

**Secret Serviceman** Larry Newman reports that while the baby was fighting for his life Kennedy went to see him on the hospital's 5th floor, which had been cleared of all visitors.

On his way to his son's room President Kennedy passed by an open door and saw two girls, around 3 or 4 years old, playing on their bed. They were both terribly burned and covered in bandages.

Kennedy stood motionless and stared at them. He was told that one of the children was so badly burned that she would probably lose one of her hands. Upon hearing that, the President asked for a pen and paper and wrote a personal note to each girl. After several minutes he then continued on to his own son's room. President Kennedy's son Patrick died the next day.

Folks, to be able to look at situations and others God's way, especially when the circumstances of your life are collapsing around you (as President Kennedy's were) is a level of spirituality that seemingly few people attain to. Judging wisely, praying humbly, and treating others as you want to be treated is truly a tremendous level of godliness that all of us need to strive for by God's grace.

What do you need to start looking at in your life with God's eyes?