



# THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of  
Ashley River Baptist Church

## BEFORE YOU JUDGE MATTHEW 7:1-5

1 "Do not judge lest you be judged. 2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

### PROHIBITION OF JUDGMENT

7:1 "Do not judge lest you be judged. Jesus gives a strong command: "DO NOT"

**Judge:** A personal evaluation or opinion; to criticize, condemn or find fault with the actions of another; to be on trial.

Jesus does not prohibit the exercise of any and all forms of judgment:

- 1 - Judicial Judgment of the Courts Rom 13
2. - Spiritual and moral discernment 1Jn 4:1 Rom 12:2

### ATTITUDE IS THE KEY!

*Jesus condemns the unjustly harsh, critical attitude which condemns others while overlooking or subtly suggesting a more self-righteous lenient standard toward one's own faults.*

### Motivation not to judge:

- 1 – The reality of our limited mental capacity as humans to fully comprehend or understand.
- 2 – The reality of being judged by the very standard we employ.  
v.2 *"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*
- 3 – The reality of calling down upon ourselves the judgment of God.

### PERMISSION FOR JUDGMENT

We are to examine and judge ourselves first. (v3-5)

Jesus employs hyperbole (exaggeration) to demonstrate the hypocrisy of judging others for their relatively small faults in comparison to your large ones.

**SPECK** – *small dry piece of wood or twig; straw; splinter;*  
Emphasis: small and insignificant nature

**LOG** – *a beam or plank of wood; shaft of timber*

Emphasis: large and significant nature

**HYPOCRISIES OBSERVE THIS PROCEDURE OF CRITICALLY JUDGING OTHERS.**

Jesus reverses the procedure.

*Self-examination and criticism should be our first and most exacting criticism.*

Our great challenge and difficulty lies in our **INABILITY** and **UNWILLINGNESS** to examine ourselves.

*The EYE is a key to our perception and understanding and a window to the soul. Spiritually speaking, our sins obstruct the "eyes of our heart" impairing our moral perception and judgment and thereby preventing us from a proper evaluation or assistance of others. (v4)*

*We need a "spiritual optometrist" to remove the sinful obstruction.*

### PURPOSE OF JUDGMENT

**CORRECTION** and **RESTORATION** ...for yourself and others.

(v.5) *"then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

Jesus never said to avoid confrontation or neglect the presence of sin in the lives of others. We neither **ACCUSE** or **EXCUSE!**

We are to help restore them gently.

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."* Galatians 6:1

...but **ONLY** after we have examined our own lives, repented, and had our "log" removed!

When we critically judge others we have lost perspective of our own standing before God and the very purpose for which He sent His Son into the world..... for restoration and the forgiveness of sins through grace and mercy! *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*  
John 3:17

*"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23*

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

**CHALLENGE:** Just how "perfect" is YOUR life in the eyes of God?

By which standard do you wish to be judged by God...*Grace and Restoration or Guilt and Condemnation?*

Submit and ask our Lord, the "spiritual optometrist" to perform surgery on "the eyes of your heart" today so you may be delivered of your critical spirit and free to find your purpose in loving and restoring others!