



DO NOT JUDGE Matthew 7.1-5

Key Points : Do not be judgemental, instead judge well'

- Key point 1. **Judge compassionately & relationally (not superficially) (Mat 7:1-2)**
 - With reference to John 7.24 we see that we are to judge correctly, and it is the harsh and superficial, hypercritical judgement that Jesus is challenging
- Key point 2. **Judge self- reflectively & humbly (not hypocritically) (Mat 7:3)**
 - Jesus's desire is for us to judge with consistency – not having one rule for you and another for someone else. Echoing Rom 2:1 'you who judge others do these very same things.'
- Key point 3. **Judge other Christians more gently & directly (Mat 7:5)**
 - when we have approached a situation compassionately (to avoid a superficial judgement) and have dealt with the plank in our own eye through humble and prayerful self-reflection (to avoid being hypocritical) we are finally in a place to 'see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.' Let's not hide behind the 'do not judge' verse in order to avoid loving confrontation - it is a key way that we can grow in Christ-likeness

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. Do you find it easy to be direct with someone if there is a problem?

Start thinking

2. How have you understood Jesus's 'Do not judge' until now. Did the sermon challenge or change that view?

Start sharing

3. Do you feel able to be direct with people in this group if there is an issue? If not why not? How might you grow a culture of honouring one another in your group where honest, compassionate, self-reflective challenge is a regular way the Holy Spirit is at work to bring transformation as individuals and and a group?

Start praying

4. Heavenly Father, we ask that you would help us to become more compassionate, relational, self-reflective and humble in our judgements of others. Give us wisdom and discernment to know when a difficult situation is to be overlooked, forgiven or challenged directly in love. Amen

Start doing

5. Spend some time thinking of some uncomfortable or challenging relationships or situations you're in and ask God if he's calling you to respond differently.