To Judge or Not to Judge
April 27th & 28th, 2013

Matthew 7:1-5
"Judge not, that you be not judged."

In this passage in Matthew 7, is Jesus saying that we are *never* to judge the actions of others? What about judging others when it's rape, murder, child abuse, dishonesty, cruelty or stealing?

<u>*Judge*</u>: "*Krino* ... primarily denotes 'to separate, select, choose;' hence, 'to determine,' and so 'to judge, pronounce judgment.'"[1]

<u>*Judge*</u>: "To Compare facts or ideas, and perceive their agreement or disagreement, and thus to distinguish truth from falsehood."[2]

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." Matthew 18:15

Matthew 7:2 "…and with the measure you use it will be measured to you."

<u>*Measure*</u>: "*metron* … (b) of 'a graduated rod or rule for measuring,' figuratively Matt. 7:2"[1]

❖ Jesus is addressing the standard and the attitude that individuals use in judging the actions of others.
   ↳ Is the measure the Word of God or our own opinion?
      📖 John 12:44-50

❖ When someone is said to be "Judgmental" it means one who is "too willing to criticize other people's actions and behavior and say that they are wrong."[3]

❖ To be judgmental is to have a critical attitude that is unreasonable, ill-natured, and condemning.

Matthew 7:3-5 "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

<u>*Speck (Mote)*</u>: "*karphos* ... a small, dry stalk, a twig, a bit of dried stick."[1]

<u>*Log (Beam)*</u>: "*dokos* ... 'beams' being received at their ends into walls or pieces of timber. The Lord used it metaphorically, in contrast to a mote, 'of a great fault, or vice,'"[1]

❖ Jesus says, *"…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."*
   ↳ Jesus is teaching His disciples to first be aware of their own sinful actions in order to approach their brother's problem with a humble attitude!
   ↳ Jesus is not teaching His disciples to never judge the actions of others!

1 Corinthians 5:1-12 "Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?"
- ❖ The problem is incestuous, sexual immoral behavior and the church at Corinth was tolerant of the relationship! *1 Corinthians 5:1-2*
- ❖ Paul made it clear that Christians were to judge sinful behaviors! *1 Corinthians 5:12*
  - ↳ In the Church ⇨ Sinful behavior left uncorrected will permeate the church like leaven in a lump of bread!
  - ↳ In the World ⇨ God's Word applies to everyone!
    "For John had been saying to Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.'" Mark 6:18
- ❖ Paul reemphasized specific sins that needed to be addressed. *1 Corinthians 6:9-20*

God's warning to His leaders!
Ezekiel 22:23-26 "… They made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, …"

Jesus directed His disciples to avoid a harsh, unreasonable, overly critical attitude when attempting to address issues in the lives of others in a supportive and helpful manner.

Endnotes:

[1] Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

[2] Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

[3] "English Assistance: US." *English Dictionary (online)*. ©2010 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

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