

# Judge **NOT**

Your Own Eye



Matthew 7:3-6



- Acts 8:1 (ESV): And Saul approved of his execution.
  - And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
- Acts 8:3 (ESV): But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.



- Acts 9:1 (ESV): But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
- Galatians 1:13-14 (ESV) 13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, **how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.** 14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so **extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers**





- Saul judging the saints as having forsaken God.
- No longer following traditions, therefore, needed to be corrected.
- Truth was, they were following what God had always intended for his people
- But he didn't see it that way, being blinded by traditions of his fathers

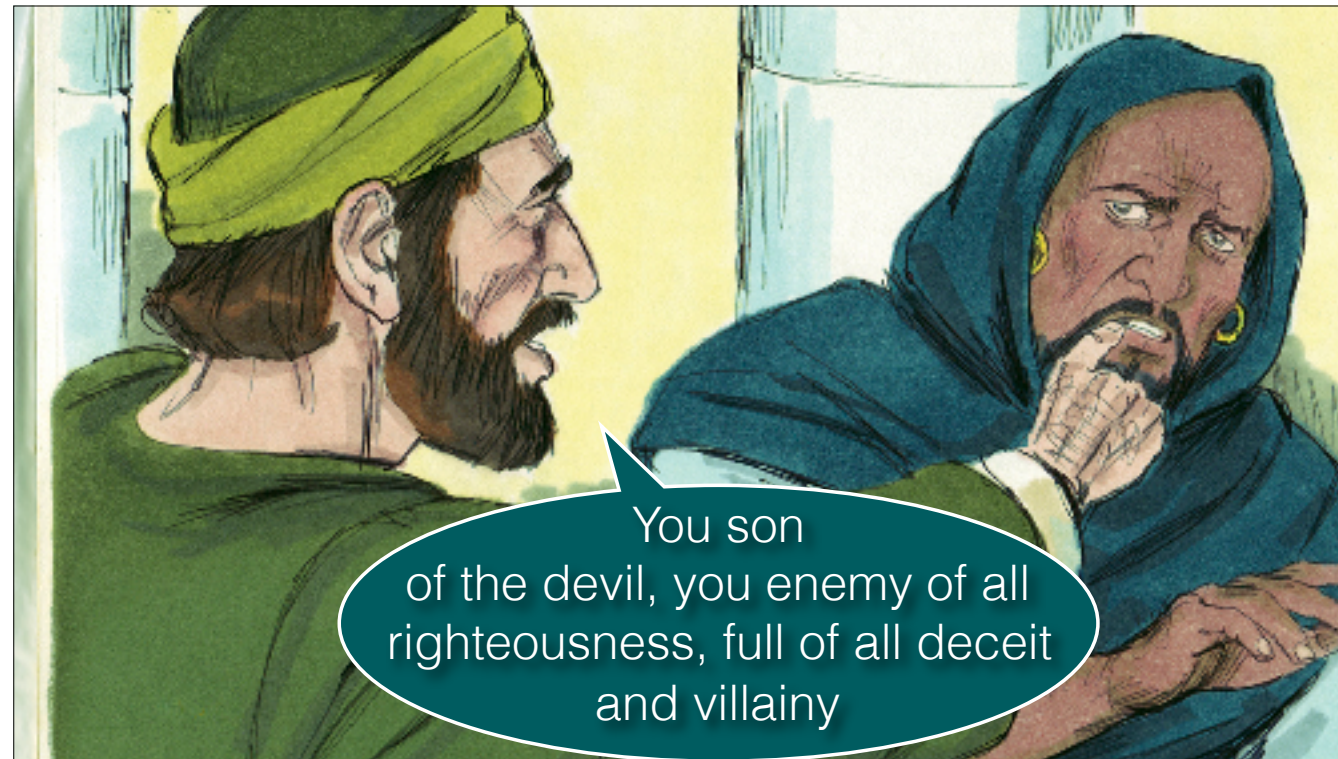


- All that changed on way to Damascus: Jesus confronts Saul
- Saul becomes disciple
- Saul still ZEALOUS.



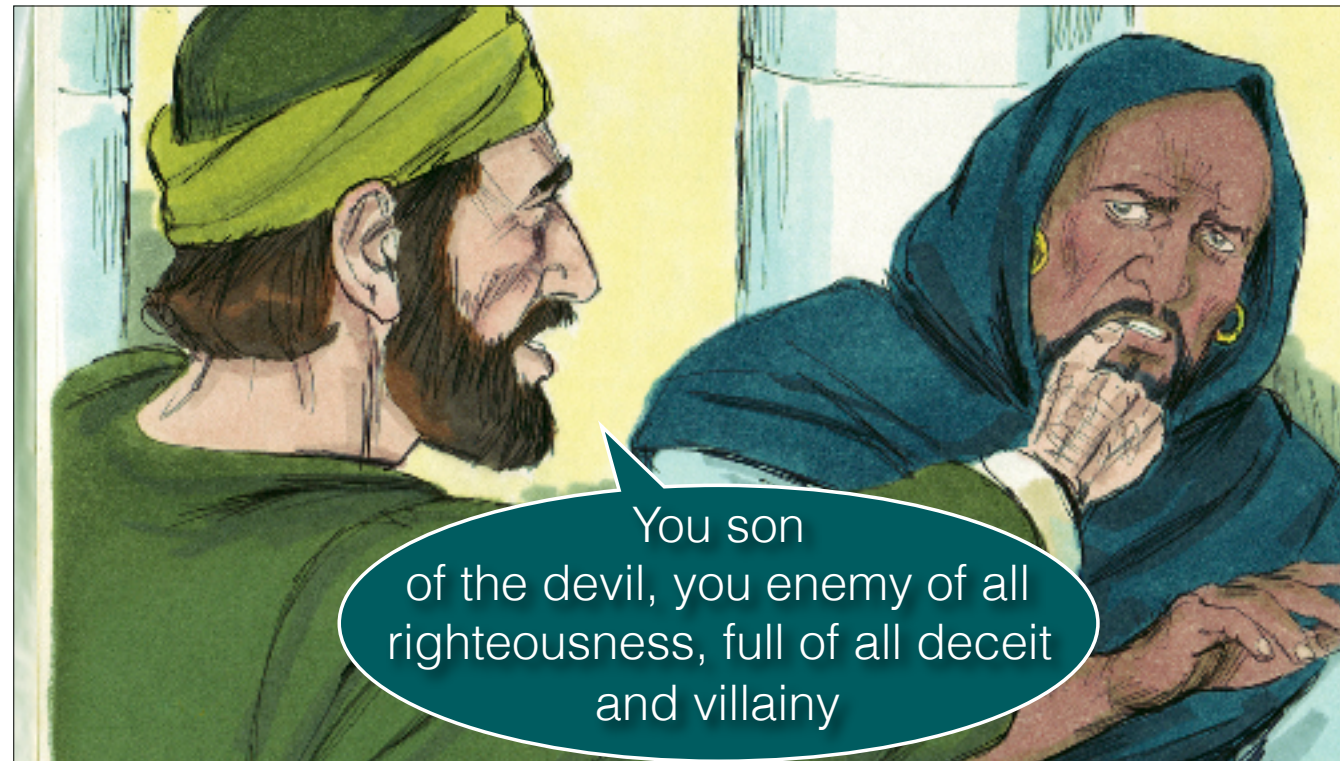


- Acts 13:8-11 (ESV)
  - Teaching the proconsul of Paphos, Sergius Paulus.
  - 8 But Elymas (Bar Jesus!) the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.



- 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him 10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.





- Doesn't this sound just like the judgmental Saul before conversion to following Jesus?
- Note: filled with Holy Spirit!



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

- Matthew 7:1-6 (ESV) 1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 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? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log 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. 6 “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

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Matthew 7:1

- Never ever Judge anyone for any reason
- Judging is okay for me.
- Either way of understanding this utterly robs this teaching of Jesus from any real meaning.

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

“Do not judge by **appearances**,  
but judge with **right judgment**.”  
John 7:24

- John 7:24: Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”
  - Here is the key given by the great teacher himself
  - JUDGE BY APPEARANCES VS. RIGHT JUDGMENT



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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- It's often easy when practicing righteousness to look down on others who are not practicing righteousness as I understand it should (MUST) be done.
- It reveals a lack of self examination and self discipline.
- It puts the emphasis in righteousness on just the action performed, no consideration of heart and attitude (especially since I cannot judge another's heart!)

## The Judging Attitude of the Pharisees



Against Brethren —

Treated with contempt

Against Jesus —

His Disciples

His Holiness

His Faithfulness

- This is NOT righteousness
  - it gives the appearance of righteousness
- This is not how my Heavenly Father wants me to practice righteousness!
- This is self-righteousness and contempt!

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- 3 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? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log 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.



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- Often focus on speck and log
  - speck = sin
  - log = sin, especially hypocrisy.
  - Lesson:
    - more interested in condemning than in helping
    - first deal with own sin
    - Then can help brother with sin (without being judgmental)
      - I can show empathy
      - Gentle correction that actually helps.
- Two things I think we've missed.

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Matthew 7:1



- It's really about the eye (not speck or log)
  - What is the condition of my eye? Matthew 6:22-23
    - good eye (with only speck) means that I can see clearly, body full of light

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



- bad eye (log) means that I cannot see, I am in great darkness.
  - Darkness in me keeps me from seeing my own faults (self-righteousness)
  - Darkness in me leads to treating others with contempt
  - And so I judge!



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



- When I look at my brother, do I look with critical judgment? darkness? expectation of sin?
  - Pharisees looking at Jesus... questions and testing; vilifying
  - Purpose was to destroy, condemn
- When I look at my brother, do I look with light?
  - Compassion and gentleness
  - Save and help

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- Rationalization Danger
  - Sometimes we judge critically and condemning
  - But rationalize that we are really trying to help
  - Put onus on the one judged if they don't listen (thus judging them again?)

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Matthew 7:1



- What is the condition of my eye?
- Am I focused on my self? my righteousness?
- Or am I focused on my brother... how I can help my brother?



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- My brother (used 3X in passage)
  - Relationship.
  - The one who judges incorrectly has elevated himself (in his mind) above his brother!

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Matthew 7:1



- James 4:11-12 (ESV) 11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

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



- James 5:9 (ESV) Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

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Matthew 7:1



- Is your eye healthy or bad?
- Are you thinking you are a brother or a judge?



Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As Jehovah lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

2 Samuel 12:5-6



- 2 Samuel 12:5-6 (ESV) 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As Jehovah lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

2 Samuel 12:5-6



- David judged the rich man very harshly, seeing clearly the arrogance, the disdain, the greediness, and the lack of pity, empathy, concern for the poor man and the lamb.
- All the while, David could not see himself so clearly.
  - It was quite easy to judge the rich man.
  - But he failed to judge himself.

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As Jehovah lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

2 Samuel 12:5-6



- Even when one has the responsibility of judging, it is a difficult and fraught with danger.

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- Because of our tendency to
  - Define righteousness
    - even as best we can, we often add in our understandings
    - This is necessary in our own lives so that we know what we what we should and should not be doing.
    - Sometimes even as a group, we will help each other come to conclusions.



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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- The danger, seen in S&P, is that we expect others to hold to the same standards as our own.
  - And if they do less, we look down on them and are critical of them
  - Essential we decide that they are not righteous!
- This is not practicing righteousness.

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- Many times, in various ways, we are guilty of this same attitude
- R - rated movies
  - I choose not to
    - Violence, language, nudity, sex, themes
    - Even WORLD sees that this is inappropriate to some extent
    - No matter how important, beautiful, etc.

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- brother watches them
  - How do I treat him?
    - Contempt? Not as faithful as I am?
    - Words we say
    - Looks we give
    - Avoidance.

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- Judging by appearances (bad eye)
  - focus on people (especially “sin” or “differences”)
  - based on limited knowledge
  - based on assumptions & traditions & conformity
    - everything - practically - becomes a matter of faith (not opinion)
  - treat others with contempt!

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- Often we are much more like the Pharisees than we'd like to admit
  - We have driven away brothers because they didn't follow our traditions.
    - Dress code
    - Hair
    - Tattoos



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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- We have discouraged brothers because they don't meet our definitions of faithfulness and holiness.
  - 3 mandatory assemblies per week
    - So long as attend all, we assumed that they were faithful in all ways.
  - "Don't forsake the assembling"
- We must stop judging!

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- Judging right judgment (good eye)
  - focus on God
  - based on evidence, not presumptions
  - based on truth, not traditions, dogma of forefathers
    - This is not “derived” truth.
    - Clear statements from God.
      - Murder, adultery, gossip

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What is **Jesus** teaching me about  
practicing righteousness?

- dogs, pigs and wolves must be recognized
  - What do we do then?
  - Do I take the position of being The Judge, The Lawgiver
  - Do I take the position of brother
    - Am I my brother's keeper?

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Matthew 7:1

# God is Judge!

- God is Judge!
  - James 4:12
    - There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.
  - This is one part of who God is that we are not to be like!

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Matthew 7:1

# God is Judge!

- But who are you to judge your neighbor?
  - Romans 14:10-12 (ESV) 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 **So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.**



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Matthew 7:1

# God is Judge!

- But **who are you** to judge your neighbor?
  - Romans 2:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

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Matthew 7:1

# God is Judge!

- My job is not to judge!
- My job is to aid my brother!

# Judge **NOT**

Matthew 7:1-6

- God is Judge, I am brother
  - His law, He's just, He knows
- Have a healthy eye
  - don't treat with contempt
  - don't presume and assume
- Right judgment to provide help to my brother in Christ
  - Judging distracts me from helping.
- Practice righteousness by not judging by appearances.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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## Judge Not: Your Own Eye

Matthew 7:3-6

Synopsis: Continuing our study of Jesus teaching us about how to practice our righteousness, He has taught us that we must not judge. In this lesson we examine the beam and speck in the eye. The emphasis probably should be on the condition of my eye, and that I be concerned about my brother, not being the Judge. God is Judge, I'm the brother and my job should be to aid my brother, not judge.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**