

THE KING SPEAKS

a Study in the Sermon On The Mount | Discussion Guide
Week 12 – December 2
Becoming A 'No Condemnation' Community | Matthew 7:1-6, 12

Introduction

Along with the many other sins spawned by the religious leaders of Israel, in their self-righteousness they were oppressively judgmental. They were unmerciful, unforgiving, and unkind. They were devoid of compassion and grace. It's to this that Jesus speaks in the first six verses of Matthew 7.

Read Matthew 7:1-6 and 12 before answering this week's questions.

Questions for Study

1. Do you have a pet peeve? If you're in a LIFEgroup, it could be fun to share pet peeves. Have you ever wondered what God's pet peeve might be? Again, good to discuss with your LIFEgroup or if you're not in a LIFEgroup, with another person.
2. What do you think of the idea that God's pet peeve is when we mistreat another person?
3. How do you think the average person on the street would interpret what Jesus said in verse one about judging? Do you agree or disagree with what they'd say?
4. How does everything Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount show that he gave value judgments on what's right, what's wrong, what's true and what's false?
5. So, what does it take for us to speak truth into someone's life in a nonjudgmental way? What Jesus said in verse 12 is a key clue to answering this question. Give this careful thought. The answer is very important for everyone involved. Write down what's involved to live out verse 12.
6. Here's an unusual question to consider...When you go to a dentist which response would you hope to receive if he or she finds a cavity? Would you like your dentist to condemn you for having a cavity? Would you prefer that your dentist is indifferent to the fact you have a cavity? Or, do you hope he or she would be your advocate? And by advocate, I mean they're concerned that you have a cavity, they tell you it's there and what you can do to prevent cavities. And they do their part to remove it.
7. What would you say is your judgment trigger that sets you off to judge another person (in the way we shouldn't judge)?
8. How did Jesus say we're to deal with our own shortcomings?
9. What's with verse six? Why did Jesus say this in the context of what he said in the first five verses?