***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Do Not Judge, Do Not Give to Swine; Matthew 7:1-6**

**Background: Major Themes Concerning Righteousness**

* **Righteousness is a reflection of the condition of the heart and must be more than mere external observance, Matthew 5:17-48**
* **Righteousness is demonstrated in the practice of good works but must be motivated by receiving a reward from God and not the praise of others, Matthew 6:1-34**
* **Righteousness is not obtained by exaggerating the faults of others while ignoring our own, Matthew 7:1-6**

**Exposition of Matthew 7:1-6**

1. **First Warning: Do Not Judge, Matthew 7:1**
2. **The Reason, Matthew 7:1-2**
   * **So that you will not be judged**
   * **Because the same standard you use on others will be applied to you**
3. **The Example: Of Specks and Beams, Matthew 7:3-5**
4. **Conclusions from First Warning**
   * **A gracious, patient evaluation of others cures a harsh, judgmental heart**
   * **A realistic, biblical, self-evaluation cures a self-righteousness heart**
5. **Second Warning: Use Discernment, Matthew 7:6**
   * **Discern what is holy**
   * **Discern who are the dogs and hogs**
   * **Act accordingly**

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**Do Not Judge, Do Not Give to Swine; Matthew 7:1-6**

**Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* **Read Matthew 7:1-6 (Slides)**

**Exposition Matthew 7:1-6 (Slide 1 – Header Slide)**

1. **Background: Major Themes Concerning Righteousness (Header Slide)**
   * Righteousness in the Sermon on the Mount – the standard of behavior that God requires of us as His children and as Christ’s disciples.

* **Righteousness is a reflection of the condition of the heart and must be more than mere external observance, Matthew 5:17-48**
* **Read Matthew 5:20 (Slide 2)**
* Jesus goes on to say what He means by the righteousness of the Pharisees – purely external observation of the law and not a reflection of the heart’s condition
* **Righteousness is demonstrated in the practice of good works but must be motivated by receiving a reward from God and not the praise of others, Matthew 6:1-34**
* **Read Matthew 6:1 (Slide 3)**
* Jesus goes on to say what He means by the practice of righteousness – good works like giving, praying and fasting
* He opens with the use of money and giving to the poor
* He finishes chapter 6 with three commands about handling money
  + **Righteousness is not obtained by exaggerating the faults of others while ignoring our own, Matthew 7:1-6**
  + **There is another way in which we attempt to be righteous before God that is unhealthy**
  + **First, we give mere external observance of the law, hiding our inward flaws from ourselves and others, thinking that we are good law keepers**
  + **Second, we give external evidence of the practice of religious acts in order to convince ourselves and others that we are do gooders, good works people**
  + **Third, we tear down others as evidence that we are righteous, in order to convince ourselves and others that we are right before God we take down others in order to lift ourselves up**

1. **First Warning: Do Not Judge, Matthew 7:1**
   * **Read Matthew 7:1-2 (Slide 4)**
   * Very helpful after talking about money, worry, kingdom focused living
   * We are not to measure others’ fulfillment of seeking first the kingdom or the way they use their money or the way they pray and fast
   * Well, I give this much and I bet that person doesn’t
   * Well, I teach here or teach there, I am in rare company
   * This attempt at self-righteousness by comparison is very dangerous
   * If we are going to compare, then we must compare ourselves to Jesus
2. **The Reason, Matthew 7:1-2**

* **So that you will not be judge**
* If we judge harshly, it appears that God will hold us accountable
* “God, get them for this sin or that sin.” God will hold us accountable for sin
* **Because the same standard you use on others will be applied to you His Righteousness**
* I think this statement connects us back to the model prayer and the warning about forgiveness
* Matthew 6:14-15
* To understand what Jesus means by this, we need an example and He provides

1. **The Example: Of Specks and Beams, Matthew 7:3-5**

* **Read Matthew 7:3-4 (Slide 5)**
* This is the illustration to tell us what He means
* He cannot mean to suspend all judgment about sin for He tells us (give verses about church discipline)
* **Read Matthew 18:15-17 (Slide 6)**
* He cannot mean to suspend all judgment about others for He tells us three verses later that we should determine that some people are swine
* **Read Matthew 7:5 (Slide 7)**
* Get beam – “log” – structural beam for a home
* We fall into this warning when the following issues mark our encounters with others:
* 1. Resist self-evaluation
* 2. Elevate mistakes by others to the level of sin
* 3. Puts the worst possible spin on other people’s motives
* 4. Delight to pour cold water on the dreams and schemes of others
* 5. Is ungenerous in responding to the sins of others

1. **Conclusions from First Warning**

* **A gracious, patient evaluation of others cures a harsh, judgmental heart**
* **A realistic, biblical, self-evaluation cures a self-righteousness heart**

1. **Second Warning: Use Discernment, Matthew 7:6**
   * **Read Matthew 7:6 (Slide 8)**
   * **Discern what is holy**
   * **Discern who are the dogs and hogs**
   * **Act accordingly**
   * A healthy skepticism before committing our lives to someone
2. Conclusion: Grace toward others, wisdom about our resources

Announcements:

1. Fall festival
2. Deacon nomination