

Judge Not

AMANDA BEGGS | YOUR KINGDOM COME WEEK 11

Forms of Pride when it comes to “Judge Not”

Misuse: When “judge not” is used culturally, it’s used without context. It’s lifted from the broader teachings of Jesus and used as an argument for moral relativism.

Neglect: Many of us have allowed cultural misuse of this verse to be an excuse for neglecting this teaching altogether.

Humble Examination: Humble examination comes to the Word of God expecting it to speak to us and to challenge us.

HEBREWS 4:12-13

The way of the Kingdom changes the way we approach relationships.

“To Judge” definitions

- To **discern**: to evaluate, this right rather than wrong, better rather than worse
- To **condemn**: to judge as guilty, to treat with contempt

When Jesus says “do not judge” He isn’t addressing discernment, He’s addressing condemnation.

Before we let ourselves off the hook, we need to make sure that we don’t have **condemning hearts disguised as discerning minds.**

The way of the Kingdom changes the way we approach relationships. The key to right relationships is to first see ourselves rightly before we help others see what’s right.

Seeing Myself Rightly

“I am comfortable on the bench.”

- A place of honor and control, the judge has a seat that demands respect
- comes with power

- Seeking condemnation, not discernment
- Indicators:
 - Focus on the flaws: I look for what's wrong before seeing what's right
 - Major in the Minors: I focus on things that are of little importance and treat them as matters of great importance.
 - Default to LCI: I analyze actions and attitudes with the Least Charitable Interpretation. I assume the worst.
 - Superiority Complex: I believe my expertise gives me the right to call out others and that I am completely free from the sin I see in others.
 - Joyful Judge: I get satisfaction (and sometimes even joy) from pointing out people's failings.
 - Double Standard: I am quick to notice my own faults in others. My condemnation comes from guilt of the same sin in my own life.
 - Hyper-critical: My expectation is perfection. I hold people to unreasonable standards and make them pay when they can't meet those standards.
- James 4:11-12

"I have blurred vision"

- Matthew 7:3-5
- **WHY:** What's your **motive**? Why aren't you concerned with your sin that causes blurry vision?
 - "The fact of the matter is that we are not really concerned about helping this other person; we are interested only in condemning him. We pretend to have this great interest; we pretend that we are very distressed at finding this blemish (in his life). But in reality, as our Lord has already shown us, we are really glad to discover it."
 - Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones
- **HOW:** What's your **method**? Why don't you see that your blurry vision impacts your ability to help someone else?
 - Romans 2:1-4
 - Often, the same things we're condemning are the same things that are true in us

Self-Awareness (seeing ourselves rightly) → humility → repentance/sanctification
 → kingdom relationships

“I am a hypocrite.”

- We have condemning hearts disguised as discerning minds.
- Relationships in the Kingdom of God look different.
- Luke 18:10-14
- Superiority is a sign of hypocrisy
- the Pharisee’s faith was about himself and how good he was
- Humility is a sign of seeing rightly

When we see ourselves rightly, we see the gospel clearly, and as a result, it changes the way we see others.

MATTHEW 6:9-13, ESV

Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

