

“Living Differently in Relationships . . .Continued”

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We are to be different from the world around us—different priorities, different values, different approaches to our finances, etc. This theme is throughout scripture.

Matthew 7:1-12

Verse 1: Jesus *IS NOT* saying

- There is no such thing as _____ . (Proverb 16:20-21)
- You should turn a blind eye to what is going on around you.
- There is no such thing as _____ .

Verse 1: Jesus *IS* saying

- Be very careful with the _____ you use in making judgments - use the same standards on yourself as you use on others.
- The judges will be _____ .
- Be _____ (be careful with filling in the blanks).

Verses 3-5: Jesus *IS NOT* saying

- Disregard those who have _____ . (James 5:19-20)

Verses 3-5: Jesus *IS* saying

- Before offering _____ or “suggestions”, check yourself very carefully.

“We have a fatal tendency to exaggerate the faults of others and minimize the gravity of our own. We seem to find it impossible when comparing ourselves with others to be strictly objective and impartial. We can experience the pleasure of self-righteousness without the pain of penitence.” John Stott

Verse 6: Jesus *IS NOT* saying

- Be _____ .
- Don’t pray for people.
- Don’t love people.

Verse 6: Jesus *IS* saying

- Face reality - there are those whose hearts have become too _____ to hear the truth.

How do we tell?

- Make sure you have the _____ out of your eye.
- Realize you reach this point very rarely.

Verse 7-11: Jesus *IS NOT* saying prayer is simply asking for what we want.

If this were so, it would:

- Remove God from His rightful place.
- Create enormous problems.
- Be inconsistent with the rest of the Sermon on the Mount.

Verses 7-11: Jesus *IS* saying

- God is _____ .
- We don’t ask _____ .
- God is good and loving, but He is also wise. His priorities are different than your priorities. (Daniel 3:16-18)

God will not protect you from what He chooses to use to perfect you.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

What is your main "take-away" from this week? How do you plan to live that out?

What standard do you use when "judging" other people? Is it fair? Is it Christ-like?

Have you ever been judged harshly by someone? What was that like for you?

What are some appropriate ways to help someone remove the "speck from their eye"?

How do you tell when you have crossed from appropriate discernment into inappropriate judging?

How do you "modify" gossip so that it doesn't sound like gossip?

What is your goal when you pray?

What do think of the idea that God is truly accessible?

How has it impacted you when God doesn't answer prayers in the way you would like for Him to?

Review Question #1: What has been the main hindrance to your being different from the world around you?

Review Question #2: What has the main the main hindrance to your making a difference in the world?

