

The Sermon on the Mount: Specks and Planks; Hogs and Dogs

Matthew 7:1-6

📖 John 13:35 (NIV) *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

📖 Matthew 7:1–6 (NIV) *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. ⁶ “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.”*

We should judge [when we are ready to be judged by that same standard.](#)

📖 Matthew 7:1 (NIV) *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”*

📖 Matthew 7:2 (NIV) *“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

📖 John 7:24 (NIV) *“Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”*

📖 Romans 16:17 (NIV) *“I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.”*

📖 1 John 4:1 (NIV) *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

📖 Hebrews 5:12–14 (NIV) *“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

📖 1 Corinthians 5:1–3 (NIV) *“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father’s wife. ² And you are proud! Shouldn’t you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? ³ Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.”*

We should judge [when we can see clearly out of both eyes.](#)

📖 Matthew 7:3 (NIV) *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”*

📖 Matthew 7:4-5 (NIV) *“How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*


📖 Romans 2:1–3 (NLT) *“You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. ² And we know that God, in His justice, will punish anyone who does such things. ³ Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God’s judgment when you do the same things?”*

We should judge whether or not sharing God's wisdom is wise.

📖 *Matthew 7:6 (NIV) “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.”*

📖 *Acts 13:45–46 (NIV) “When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. ⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.”*

📖 *Acts 18:5–6 (NIV) “When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”*

 **Digging Deeper**—*Why do we look at the speck in someone else’s eye? Why do we feel the need to point out what someone else is doing wrong? What are some common motivations for finding fault in others? What is the difference between judging someone and helping someone? Can you give an example of what being judged feels like? What new thing did you learn about judging from this sermon?*