

Tonight, we continue with our series in the Sermon on the Mount...

You guys thought Stephen's sermons were long... ha Jesus' sermons are long!

But they are super helpful – remember what they are teaching us – what it looks like to live as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven!

Jesus showed us that to be a citizen of his Kingdom is to be poor in spirit... gentle... loving even those who don't love us... investing all that we are in the things of Him rather than what is of this world... He offers worthwhile stuff... trusting in Him when our heart wants to be anxious...

Tonight, we get super practical again... judging... helping others... seeing God's heart for us...

I want to challenge you to focus tonight and try to work some of this stuff out in your own life...

Often, we just take the Word in and never live it out... Jesus is trying to teach us that this stuff should change out lives!

MAIN: Jesus' heart for us teaches us how to love others. **READ:** MATTHEW 7:1-12

1. JUDGE WISELY (1-6)

Ha judging... what a topic... you know what it means to be judged... to judge others...

Pointing out others flaws... telling other people about somebody else's flaws...

If I had to guess... I bet you can think of someone who fits this mold... they are judgy...

Here is what Jesus is teaching us... it's not about others... it's about us... **it's about our hearts...**

Jesus gives a command (1) Don't judge so you won't be judged...

AKA... **WARNING – if you judge you will be judged!**

Get this piece of it – (2) The way you judge is the way you will be judged...

I think there is two sides to this...

- One is the **God side**... if you will show mercy to others... He will show mercy to you... if you are harsh to others, He will be harsh to you...
- Two, it seems that this is **others focused**... the way you are to others is often the way people will be to you... **How you treat others matters...**

And then this is the moment Jesus kicks us in the teeth... (3-5) **What is Jesus saying?**

He is saying we are walking around with our own sin judging others for their sin! (LOG vs SPECK)

What does Jesus call those who say one thing but do another? **HYPOCRITES**.... That one hurts...

Why? Because we are telling people they should do things that we are not willing to do ourselves...

Because we are calling people out when we have our own problems... because we are missing it...

We are being harsh... rough... mean... judgy... that's not the call... the call is to be gentle... meek... lowly...

We're out here putting people on blast and Jesus is saying... that's not the way...

In all this Jesus gives us some wisdom (6)

Dogs & pigs = unholy in the OT...

Holy & pearls = good news of Jesus...

Now this is weird... but this is Jesus saying... there are some people that after so long of their rejecting you... move on... We see Jesus say something similar to his disciples about going from town to town... if they continually reject... move on... **(you can still pray)**

Here is what is happening... Jesus is saying don't judge, but use judgement...

To an extent, judging is okay when it is done the right way...

We need to hold each other accountable... call each other out in a *loving, graceful, restoring way*...

So... are you walking around with a log in your eye pointing other peoples specks out...
Are you pointing out other's sins when you don't have yours under control?

Here is the challenge – keep your eyes on your own sin... **help** others with theirs...

2. LOVE LIKE GOD

(7-8) Ask... seek... knock... give yourself to God... and he will answer you...

No... this isn't a blank check... he won't give you everything you ask for... but he will give you good gifts...
the things you need...

Jesus then paints a picture of what this actually looks like...

It's like a parent taking care of a child...

(9-11) Jesus is saying what kind of parent would keep from their children what they asked for....

*This is not Jesus saying your parents were wrong when they said no to you when you asked for that
friend to come over... that place to go to or they get onto you at 3AM for still being up... ha*

(JUDE IIIs...)

Jesus is doing all this to say... "Hey... I love you... I want what's best for you and will take care of you... I will
not turn you away..."

He is saying if you, as cruddy as you will give your child what he or she needs, how much more will I do
that for you!

So, if you are looking for Jesus, you will find him... If you are looking for answers you will find them...
Keep looking keep asking... keep searching... keep looking for Him and the promise we see here is that
you will find Him!

Jesus is saying *this is my heart for you...*

And then look at (12)

He turns to us... treat others the way you want to be treated... (summing it all up...)

Let's put this together... Jesus loves us and takes care of us... so then, we should love others and care for
them... (theme through SOM)

How Jesus treats us is how we should treat others!

Be kind... forgive... love... don't judge... share the good news...

So... the point... Jesus' heart for us teaches us how to love others....

Love others... show others grace... give when others are in need... do to others what you want done to
you... do to others what Jesus has done for you!

Ultimately, treat others like Jesus treats you... that is kingdom living...

GROUPS:

1. What stood out from tonight?
2. How can judging be harmful or helpful?
3. What is the right way to "judge"?
4. Who have you asked to hold you accountable?
5. Name things Jesus has done for us and how we can do them for others?