Title: To Judge or Not to Judge
Matthew 7:1-6

Big Idea:
Our condemning judgments blind and return upon us. We must wrestle with our own brokenness before we step in to help another.

Context:
Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 7-Talking about our relationships

Matthew 7:1-5
“Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Big Idea:
Our condemning judgments blind and return upon us. We must wrestle with our own brokenness before we step in to help another.

Outline:
Judgment Condemned (1-4), Introspection, Confession, and Love (5), Judgment Required (6)

1.) Judgment Condemned (1-4)

Vs.1- Judge not, lest you be judged.

How is this used? Often as a defense by those being judged! -UnChristian (20-something’s). Christianity isn’t popular or in vogue anymore. This isn’t intended to be used as a defense to protect our sinful actions or behavior but rather give clarity to US. We’re to focus more upon us not judging rather than upon others judging us.

What does it mean to not judge?
"Krino-Judgment is an ambiguous word, in Greek as in English: it may mean exercising a proper discernment, or it may mean sitting in judgment on people
(or even condemning them)." Discernment over Condemning (Behavior vs. Motive).

Luke 6:37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven

Greg Boyd captures the problem of judging really well. He says: "You can't love and judge at the same time," because "It's impossible to ascribe unsurpassable worth to others when you're using others to ascribe worth to yourself."

Judgment causes us to see the other not as a person, but as a thing-as less human and therefore less valuable. And once we do that to a person, or a group of people, it opens the door to all kinds of terrible evil-segregation, injustice, abuse, even genocide. Jesus is warning us about excluding anyone, or seeing ourselves or our group as inherently better than any other. We may disagree and discern another person or group to be wrong-but when that discernment causes us to value another person or group less, then we've crossed the line into judgment, condemnation, and exclusion.

Vs.2- For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

Why are we not to judge?

A.) That you be not judged- Judged by whom?
- Judged by others?
  Galatians 6:7-8 “7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- Judged by God.
  How can we be judged by God if we are under grace and not works? How can my works make me judged by God?
  Our lives reveal whether we have trusted in God by faith through grace. By their fruit you will know them! Doesn’t mean perfection but it means our beliefs more and more will begin to match our behavior as we follow Christ. Grace is what marks us as Christians.

  Ex.) Matthew 18 and parable of unforgiving Servant

Romans 3:1-3
1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

3 Do you suppose, O man--you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself--that you will escape the judgment of God?

James 4:11-12

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

B.) We’re in no position to see clearly to judge (condemn another)

vs3-4 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

Ex.) King David and the Prophet Nathan- 2 Sam. 12

Brother*- Often within our own communities.

Sin blinds us to our own failings and brings condemnation on those who do far less than us! Understanding our sin as a Log.

Is our sin always greater than someone else’s? Paul- I am the greatest sinner

2.) Introspection, Confession, and Love (5)

5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- Introspection/ Self-Awareness (Not Self-Absorbedness)- How do we take the log out of our own eye?

- Confession-We need to ask that God would search us

Psalm 139:23-24. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 4 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

- Love-Genuinely desire to care for and serve our brothers. This isn’t’ indifference nor is it condemnation. It’s humble, careful, thoughtful engagement.
Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ

1 Peter 4:8 “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

"The Christian's job is to agree with God that every person you meet was worth Jesus dying for." We cannot ascribe that kind of value and dignity to a person and condemn them as worthless at the same time. It's just not possible.

3.) Judgment Required (6)

6 “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

What in the world is Jesus talking about?
Who are the dogs and pigs?
Common animals, that could be domesticated and used (dogs w/ Syrophoenician women—Pig farmers….telling us something about our nature. Can’t eat pearls, don’t understand it, don’t see it for what the gospel is…..see it simply as something to add, to use in the existing paradigm rather than something that changes the whole paradigm (another realm of existence, a higher one).

What is the holy/pearls Jesus is talking about?

Matthew 13:45-46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

What does he mean by not giving it to them?

Sending out of the 12.
Matthew 10:14-15 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. 15 Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Using discernment in how we share the gospel and not forcing it upon people. Discernment in where people are at and how God is working in their lives.

Application:
B.L.E.S.S
This helps in our discernment and in how we love and begin to share the gospel with different people.