The Golden Rule
Matthew 7:1-6
Sermon Outline

A. Do not Judge…. Really! (vs. 1-2):

1. Judges – We are commanded not to continuously, to the point that it becomes a habit of making judgments that a person is guilty and condemned. These judgments can predispose the person to be punished.

   a) Though the word judge is itself neutral as to the verdict, the sense here indicates an unfavorable judgment. Critics of others must stop short of final condonation, for men cannot judge motives, as God can (cf. Jas 4:11, 12). Believers are not to avoid all judging (cf. 7:6, 16), for Christians need to judge themselves and offending members (I Cor 5:3-5, 12, 13). That ye be not judged. The aorist subjunctive form is better understood of God’s judgment than of human judgment (cf. 6:14, 15).[^1]

2. You will not be judged - A person condemns themselves to judgment when they condemn someone else (Matthew 6:13).

   a) For the principle, see 5:7, 6:14–15 and Proverbs 19:17. Compare also the Old Testament principles that false witnesses were to receive the penalty they sought for the accused (Deut. 19:18–21) and that God opposed unjust judges (Ex 23:6–8; Deut. 16:18–20).[^2]

3. Judge, condemnation – This is the way a person pronounces or makes a verdict that a person is guilty or innocent.

   a) The Pharisees were then judging Christ and finding Him to be inadequate. He was not offering the kind of kingdom they anticipated or asking for the kind of righteousness they were exhibiting. So, they rejected Him. Jesus, therefore, warned them again st hypocritical judging.[^3]

4. Judges – The person making the verdict is continuously condemned for punishment. This may be why some people don’t have friends; because they are either critical of themselves or critical of others. They view themselves as above people.

5. Standard, Judge, condemnation – This is when a person exercises authority making decisions pronouncing verdicts and judgments on others.

6. Measure - When the judgments and verdicts are passed out it gives out a standard that is based on the will of the person and the level of condemnation

[^1]: Matthew 6:15
[^2]: Matthew 5:17
[^3]: Matthew 7:1-2
is based on what the person passes out. **Example** - When Christ measures out spiritual gifts it is based on His sovereign will so it is a gift and the amount and what is determined by Him.

7. **Measure** - The way a person determines the level of judgments they dictate is the very same portion that is given back.

   a) **Good example** - Recall also the story of David and his anger upon hearing Nathan’s parable about the rich man who had taken the poor man’s little ewe lamb: the king did not realize that what made him angry in another was his own fault (2 Sam 12:1–15). All too often we search for the faults of others with the lantern of Diogenes while remaining utterly oblivious to our own obvious failings.[4]

### B. Don’t be Hypocritical (vs. 3-5):

1. **Look; see** – Why does a person continuously contemplate to the point that it becomes a habit making them aware of something they presuppose. This meditative evaluation of a person could be superficial because it is based on the person’s outward appearance (guy in Texas who drives around in a beat-up car with Hawaii clothes and only those who know him knows he is a multi-millionaire; people that with tattoos)

2. **Look; see** – This is when a person makes a continuous mental note of something about a person and then form an opinion about it without ever asking any questions.

3. **Eye** – Jesus could have used the eye because He was a carpenter and in their day they probably did not have protective glasses so saw dusk getting into their eye was probably common place. So, He may be even implying that the person who has the speck carries it painfully while the person with a log, who could not even get it in their own eye carries their sin with pride or no sensitivity to what it really means to experience this sin. To this person, it is just who I am.

4. **Speck** – This is a twig, splinter or a tiny straw metaphorically used for a minor flaw in a person’s life. Jesus would know about this since He was most likely trained to be a carpenter.

   a) A speck of straw or chaff, or a splinter of wood. Beam. A log or plank, used of the main beam of a roof or floor; here it represents a censorious spirit. The illustration is intentionally exaggerated to show the ludicrous position of one who sets himself up to judge others. Such a person is termed hypocrite, for he pretends to act as a physician, when he is really ailing himself.[5]

5. **Brethren** – A saved person who is a part of the Christian community; therefore, sharing the same Christian values.
6. **Notice** - This is to continuously to the point that it becomes a habit to not fully comprehend, even after careful consideration, the beam in a person's own eye.

7. **Beam** – This is a beam that was used to support a floor or a roof. Christ uses this as an exaggeration to bring a vivid emphasis to His point.

8. **Say to a brother** – How can a person make a clear statement that expresses their inward thoughts to a believer living in their Christian community, about the tiny twig in the brother's eye while fully knowing they have a beam in their own eye.

9. **Let me; forgiven** — The person with the log in their eye actually commands that they would, once and for all, grant the person forgiveness that has a tiny twig in their eye while doing nothing about what is in their eye.

10. **Let me take; forgiven** — The person with the beam in their eye commands, once and for all, the removal by force all punishment due to sinful behavior of the person with the tiny twig while doing nothing about the log in their own eye (Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35). This person is taking matters into their own hands functioning as a just judge while carrying a log in their eye.

11. **Behold** – Jesus is saying that this action requires a special mental note of what is taking place.

12. **You hypocrite** – Believers who wear a mask when around others hiding the different lifestyle they live while judging other believers.

13. **Take** – The believers who wear the mask are commanded to, once and for all, forcefully remove the beam that is in their own eye.

14. **Clearly** – When a believer forcefully, once and for all, remove the log from their own eye, they can with clear distinction make wise judgments about the tiny speck in their brother's eye. They can steadfastly accomplish this because there is no log in their eye.

15. **Brethren** – The above action only takes place with a saved person who is a part of the Christian community. This person shares the same Christian values.

16. **Brethren** – Jesus finishes this section with brethren being repeated from verse 3-5 before going to verse 6.

   a) The repeated reference to your brother refers to fellow disciples (5:1–2), meaning that Jesus had the Christian community primarily in mind. But the principle is also applicable to anyone. Jesus’ own familiarity with the carpenter’s shop and the frustration of sawdust and small particles in one’s eye personalizes the illustration.[6]
C. Be Wise (vs. 6):

1. Do not give – We are commanded, once and for all, not to try to make these principles a permanent possession of those who are unsaved (dogs).

   a) To modern readers the mention of “dogs” conjures up images of well-groomed household pets, but in the ancient world dogs lived in squalor, running the streets, and scavenging for food (Ps. 59:14–15). To refer to a person as a dog was a grave insult, reducing the person’s status to among the lowest on the social scale (2 Sam. 16:9). Jews had a particular revulsion for dogs because they alone among domesticated animals were willing to eat human corpses (1 Kings 21:19, 24; 22:38). As a metaphor, “dog” was a humiliating label for those apart from, or enemies of, Israel’s covenant community.

2. Holy- The above principles are consecrated, therefore, set apart to display the character and attributes of Christ. These words are met to stimulate a new way of living so that a person no longer craves sinful habits because they progressively are transformed to inward holiness separated from earthly defilement. An unsaved person, not being born again, does not have an inward appetite for godly principles.

3. Throw pearls to swine; cast – Christ commands us to, once and for all, not to purposely be careless to hurl godly principles to people with unclean spirits. Because of their temperament, we may do this with force or even violence which is also not good.

   a) “Pearls” symbolize the value of the message of the kingdom of heaven (see 13:45–46). Something so valuable should not be given to those who have no appreciation for such precious truths, whose nature is demonstrated by their rejection of the message of the gospel. [7]

4. Trample – The response of those, who are unclean and may have the influence of demons, would be to violently with the mindset to destroy what is said, seek to ruin the gospel or God’s Word.

5. Turn – These people, who can be violent, could have been going in a different direction and then, because of statements being made by the believer, turn around and beat the believer, striking them forcefully tearing them a part (could create serious bodily injury). This is not the kind of suffering for the gospel that Jesus is advocating.


