



CITYLINECHURCH

Summary

In this sermon from the series 'The Way of Jesus,' Pastor Jack dives into Matthew chapter seven, focusing on what Jesus teaches about right relationships and the danger of a judgmental Spirit. He explores why people judge others, pointing to insecurity, jealousy, and self-righteousness as common roots, and challenges the church to recognize that being known for judgment rather than love is a serious problem. Jesus is not calling His followers to abandon discernment or moral thinking, but to resist the Spirit of condemnation that devalues others and elevates self. Using the vivid image of a speck and a plank, Jesus calls His followers to honest self-examination before attempting to address the faults of others. Pastor Jack also unpacks the idea of 'pearl pushing,' the tendency to force wisdom or advice on people who are not ready to receive it. The sermon closes with a call to surrender both ourselves and others to God, trusting that only He can bring true transformation, and to pursue right relationships through humility, grace, and wisdom.

Ice Breaker

What is one quirky habit or personality trait that people who know you well would say is very 'you'?

Questions

- Pastor Jack described three common roots of judgmentalism: insecurity, jealousy, and self-righteousness. Which of these do you find yourself most prone to, and why?
- Jesus says in 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.' How does this verse change the way you think about how you treat others?
- What is the difference between discernment and judgment as described in the sermon? Can you think of a real-life situation where it would be easy to cross that line?

- Pastor Jack talked about the difference between making an observation and making an evaluation of someone. Why do you think it is so easy for observations to slip into evaluations?
- In Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV), Jesus asks why we focus on the speck in someone else's eye while ignoring the plank in our own. What does it look like practically to 'take the plank out of your own eye' before addressing someone else's issue?
- The sermon introduced the idea of 'pearl pushing,' which is forcing your wisdom or advice on someone who is not ready to receive it. Have you ever been on either side of that experience? What happened?
- Pastor Jack said that 'judgment that doesn't start with yourself is hypocrisy.' How does honest self-examination before God change the way we approach difficult conversations with others?
- Jesus calls His followers to wisdom in relationships, described as doing the right thing at the right time in the right way. What is one relationship in your life right now where you need to ask God for that kind of wisdom?

Key Takeaways

- Judgmentalism often grows out of insecurity, jealousy, or self-righteousness, and Jesus calls His followers to be the least judgmental people on the planet.
- There is an important difference between discernment, which recognizes right and wrong through the Holy Spirit, and judgment, which condemns and devalues others while elevating self.
- Jesus uses the image of a speck and a plank to teach that honest self-examination must come before we ever attempt to address the faults of others.
- Forcing your wisdom or advice on someone who is not ready to receive it, what the sermon calls 'pearl pushing,' only makes matters worse and pushes people further away.
- True transformation in our relationships begins when we surrender both ourselves and others to God, trusting that He alone has the power to change hearts.

Life Application

This week, identify one relationship where you have been tempted to judge, fix, or push your perspective onto another person. Before doing anything else, spend time in honest prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any 'planks' in your own life that may be affecting how you see that person.

Write down what comes up and bring it before God. Then ask Him how He wants you to approach that relationship with humility, grace, and love rather than judgment or control.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank you for the time we have shared together today and for the truth of your Word. We confess that it is far too easy to focus on the faults of others while overlooking our own. We ask you to do the hard and holy work of removing the planks from our eyes. Give us the courage to examine ourselves honestly before you, and give us the grace to extend to others what you have so freely extended to us. Teach us to love the way you love, to see people the way you see them, and to trust you with the things we cannot change. May our relationships reflect your kingdom, and may we be known for how we love one another. In Jesus' name, amen.