

# TVC STUDY NOTES

## “JUDGE NOT?”

Understanding One of the Most Misused Verses in the Bible

Matthew 7:1 (NKJV)

Tuesday, February 11, 2026

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### Do Not Judge

1 “Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

5 Hypocrite! First, remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

### You Will Know Them by Their Fruits

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

### I Never Knew You

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

## TVC STUDY NOTES

When the Word is rightly placed back into context, it doesn't lose power; it gains weight and credibility.

- 1) **Character** always comes before **conduct**, because who or what we are determines what we do.
- 2) **We ought to work on:**
  - Our anger. Matt 5:21-26
  - Our lustful desires. Matt 5: 27-31
  - Our lying tongue and letting your word mean something. 37Matt 5: 33-
  - Our need to get your lick back. (Retaliation, can I let God handle it?) Matt 5: 38-42
  - Our ability to expand your definition of love. Can I love my enemies? Matt 5: 43-48.
- 3) **Work toward:**
  - Having a charitable heart that doesn't need recognition. Matt 6:1-4
  - Our prayer life. Matt 6: 5-14
  - Getting our flesh under control by fasting. If I'm not tempted by food, maybe I'm not tempted by fine, because my flesh is under control. Matt 6:15-18
  - Seeking the Kingdom of God first and knowing God will provide for us. Matt 6:19-34.

-Matthew 7:1 is not a command to abandon discernment, accountability, or truth; it is a warning against hypocritical, self-righteous judgment that refuses to examine itself.

-Jesus does not forbid righteous evaluation; He forbids reckless condemnation. Kingdom people look in the mirror before they point a finger.

### 1: Jesus Condemns Hypocritical Judgment, Not Discernment Matthew 7:1-5

1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

5 Hypocrite! First, remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

## TVC STUDY NOTES

- Romans 2:1: Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.
- Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Fill in the Blank:

1. Hypocritical judgment ignores the **plank** in our own eyes.
2. Jesus teaches that clear vision comes after **self-examination**.

Introspective Question:

**Before I speak about someone else's failure, have I honestly asked God to show me where I might be guilty of the same, or something similar?**

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### **2: We Will Be Judged by the Same Measure We Use Matthew 7:2**

2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

- James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. Mercy triumphs over judgment
- Luke 6:36–38 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you

Fill in the Blank:

1. The judgment we use will be **measured** back to us.
2. Mercy should guide our **judgment**.

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Introspective Question:

**If God treated me with the same patience, grace, and mercy that I give to others, how would my relationship with Him look?**

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### 3: Jesus Teaches Accountability with Humility Matthew 7:5

5 Hypocrite! First, remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Fill in the Blank:

1. Jesus says correction should happen **after** self-examination.
2. God, honoring accountability, aims at **restoration** not embarrassment.

Introspective Question:

**When I correct someone, am I more concerned with being right or with helping them be restored?**

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### 4: Discernment Is Required in the Christian Life Matthew 7:6; 15-16

6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

## TVC STUDY NOTES

- 1 John 4:1-6
  - 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
  - 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
  - 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.
  - 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
  - 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.
  - 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
- Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Fill in the Blank:

1. False teachers are recognized by their **fruit**
2. Discernment requires spiritual **maturity.**

Introspective Question:

**Have I avoided necessary discernment because I didn't want the discomfort that comes with standing in truth?**

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## 5: Judgment Belongs Ultimately to God Matthew 7:21–23

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

- Romans 14:10–12

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.”

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

- 1 Corinthians 4:5

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

Fill in the Blank:

1. Entrance into the kingdom is determined by **obedience** not words alone.
2. Final judgment belongs to **God**.

Introspective Question:

**Am I carrying the burden of judging others because I’ve forgotten that God sees what I cannot and judges what I should release?**

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# TVC STUDY NOTES

## OVERALL BOTTOM LINE

Truth without love is harsh. Love without truth is hollow. Jesus refuses both extremes.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is Matthew 7:1 often quoted without its context?
2. What is the difference between discernment and condemnation?
3. How does self-examination change how we correct others?
4. Why is humility essential for accountability?
5. How can churches practice correction without becoming harsh?
6. When have you received corrections that actually helped you grow?
7. What dangers arise when Christians refuse discernment altogether?
8. How does remembering God's judgment affect our relationships?
9. What "plank" might God be calling you to address first?
10. How can we model both truth and grace in today's culture?