

Small Group/Sermon Notes for The Greatest Sermon Ever: Part 6

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Part 6: Do not Judge.**
- **Matthew 7:1-5.**
 - So, Jesus is saying deal with yourself first.
 - What if everyone self evaluated before jumping to conclusions about others?
 - Perhaps the greatest practical failure of Christianity is when we point out other people's faults while ignoring our own. What are your observations regarding this?
 - How is this true sub-culture to sub-culture?
 - How is this true individual to individual?
 - Of course people outside the faith do the same. Just look at politics!
 - But they weren't commanded by their God to self-evaluate instead of judge. **Luke 6:46**
- A cure: living life with a consciousness of having been forgiven.
 - Who am I to make demands? Who am I to hold a grudge? Who am I to refuse the direction of my Lord?
 - **Matthew 18:21-35.**
 - Plank vs speck. 10,000 talents vs 100 denarii. Why the wild incongruity?
- Another cure: knowing that looking at yourself is how your life gets better.
 - You may feel better pointing out other's faults, but you don't get better! Thoughts?
 - **James 1:22-25.**
 - V25. I'd like to be blessed in what I do! So, I'd better deal with me rather than worry about everyone else.
- Can this concept of "do not judge" be taken too far?
 - You don't get to yield to an ugly spirit towards others, but you don't have to play the fool either.
 - It is no accident that the very next verse after the plank deal is **Matthew 7:6!**
 - **Matthew 7:15-20** is only a few verses away too!
 - Is this inconsistent? Don't I have to "judge" people to be dogs or pigs or false prophets in order to do this!?!?!?!?!?
 - How do we sort this out?
 - Here goes: we are not called to be ignorant naïve fools who get taken advantage of, but we are called to bring kindness and love into dark places.
 - To do that we need to know the score and be self-secure.
 - It is about how we respond to the darkness and evil of this world.
 - Too often **Matthew 24:12** happens to the believer. Has that ever happened to you?
 - Do we lash out at the darkness? No. That brings more darkness.
 - Do we ignore everything and live in a dream world? No.
 - We get our hearts aligned with Christ and we walk into the mess, secure in the power of God, to bring light into the darkness.
- **Romans 12:9-21** is all about how we see the world.
 - Romans 12:21 must be possible.
 - The plank filled eye fails at this.
 - The unmerciful servant fails at this.
 - Casting your pearls to pigs fails at this.
 - "Deny everything, counter with accusations" fails miserably.
 - Let's ask the Lord to show us what we need to change.
 - Then, let's go serve the Lord by overcoming evil with good.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!