

A woman on vacation in Atlantic City New Jersey, was on her way up to her room to place a bucket of quarters that she had won in her room, before dinner.

As she entered the elevator two very large black men entered the elevator with her.

One of the men was nearly 7 feet tall, both men looked to the woman like they would surely do her harm.

As the elevator began to move, one of the men said to the other **“Hit the Floor...”**

The woman fearing that she was about to be robbed, threw the bucket of coins up into the air and fell to the floor.

Next she heard one of the men say to the other, **“Ma’am if you will just tell us what floor your on, we will push the button for you.”**

Both men now clearly trying to contain their laughter, explained to the woman that when he said **“Hit the floor”**, he meant that his friend should hit the button for their floor...not for her to hit the floor.

Now clearly embarrassed, the woman realized what a fool she had made of herself, judging and condemning the two men without ever knowing them at all.

She tried to apologize but she was not able to find the right words.

The next morning a dozen roses were delivered to her room and attached to each rose was a crisp new 100 dollar bill.

The note that came with the flowers said: **“Thanks for the best laugh we have had in years.”**

**Signed:** Eddie Murphy and Michael Jordan

[Matthew 7](#)

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.

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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

### **The issue of judging the actions or even the motivations of other people.**

- ⊕ **Every year** in America 80 million law suits are filed, that is 152 every minute of every day, of every year.
- ⊕ **We are a people** preoccupied with the faults of others.
- ⊕ **It is the nature** of fallen human beings that we love to pass judgment on other people.
- ⊕ **But...We hate** to have other people pass judgment on us.
- ⊕ **When it comes to the faults of others**, we are quick to judge them, but when it comes to our own faults we want people to show us grace and forgiveness.

**Jesus said that the same judgment that you use on other people should make us aware of our own faults...**

#### **Matthew chapter 7**

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**.

#### **What is Jesus talking about here?**

Literally, Jesus is saying: "*With the same judgment you use to judge other people with, you are condemning yourself, because you are guilty of the same things.*"

- ⊕ **No matter** what it is that you might be judging or condemning someone for, you have at one time in your life, done the same things yourself.
- ⊕ **In fact**, one of the reasons that we are so sensitive to the faults of others is because we also have problems in these same areas.

The problem is that **we are blind to this truth**, that is why Jesus brings out this teaching, so that we would know that when we are judging the behavior of someone else, we also have problems in this area.

- ⊕ **Every time** I go through this study in Matthew 7, I have someone ask me if I am sure if this is what Jesus is talking about.
- ⊕ **They will say something like this to me:** "*Isn't Jesus just saying that we should not judge other people...?*"

**NO, that is not the intended purpose of these verses...**

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- ☞ **Actually**, Jesus has given us the privilege **of judging sin**, and speaking to a brother or sister Christian about it.
- ☞ **He even gave us the format** for how we are to speak to when they sin against us in Matthew 18.

### **Matthew 18:15**

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

And when we go to talk to someone about their sin against us, here is the attitude that we are to have with them:

### **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.

### **Ephesians 4:32**

And be kind to one another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you

### **2 Timothy 2:24-25**

24 And a servant of the Lord **must not quarrel** but be **gentle** to all, able to teach, **patient**,  
25 **in humility** correcting those who are in opposition

When Paul was addressing the Church at Corinth, they were a church that was immature, selfish, controlled by their flesh and had a lot to learn about relationships with each other...**Listen to what Paul taught them:**

### **1 Corinthians 6:1-3**

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

2 Do you not know that the saints (US) will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, **are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?**

3 Do you not know that **we** shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

**As Christians, we are to Judge sin, by confronting it, but when we do, our only goals should be those of:**

- ☞ Loving the person.
- ☞ Restoring the person.
- ☞ Helping the person to grow.

Therefore, our attitude **MUST** be that of deep humility, great love, and the true intention of restoring relationship with that person.

- ☞ **Also, and perhaps more importantly**, a personal awareness that we also are guilty at one time or another of doing the very same things.

**Now you might say, well what if the sin of the other person was murder, I have never murdered anyone.**

- ☞ **Jesus said** that if you are even angry with your brother, that you are guilty of the intent of the law, of murder, and are yourself also guilty.

### **Matthew 5:22**

But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment

**What about a sexual sin like adultery, I can judge that sin, because I have never committed adultery...**

- ☞ **Jesus said** that if you have ever looked at a woman to lust after her, then you are guilty of the intent of the law of adultery.

### **Matthew 5:28**

But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

So in Matthew Chapter 7, Jesus takes the opportunity to teach us that we should be careful when we begin to pass judgment on the behavior and actions of others, because we most likely are guilty of the same action or behavior ourselves.

### **Matthew 7**

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

**In verse 2 we are warned why we should not judge other people because we are also sinners.**

- ☞ **Human beings** do an interesting thing with sin, we tend to rate them from least offensive to most offensive.
- ☞ **If I asked for a show of hands**, most people would say that a lie is far less a sin than murder.
- ☞ **With God**, Sins are not rated by their degree of seriousness, all sin is equally grievous to God.
- ☞ **The Liar** is separated from God because of that sin, just as much as the murderer is.

Jesus had to die for the liar, just as much as He had to die for the murderer.

- ☞ **The Bible says** that a violation of any part of God's law, causes us to be guilty of breaking the whole law, and therefore worthy of death.

### **James 2:10**

10 for whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. (Nkjv)

**James 2:10** The Living Bible

10 and the person who keeps every law of God but makes one little slip is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is.

**The standard of righteousness that God requires of every human being is PERFECTION.**

- ☞ **Since no human being** can ever be perfect, we all are not able to make ourselves acceptable to God, no matter how hard we try.
- ☞ **But when Jesus died**, He perfectly fulfilled the righteous requirement of Gods law, so that any person who places themselves in Jesus, also becomes perfect, and is acceptable to God.

When Jesus Christ died on the Cross, He was paying for the sins of every person that has ever been born.

- ☞ **But this forgiveness** is not credited to your own personal account until you confess it with your mouth and believe it in your heart.

**Romans 10:9**

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Without Jesus Christ, you will stand before God as a liar, just as surely as you will stand before Him as a murderer.**

With Jesus Christ, you will never stand before God for any of your sins, EVER.

**So, when Jesus says**

**Matthew 7**

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.

He is saying that think twice about passing judgment on something you see in another person because there is pretty good chance that you have done the exact same thing.

- ☞ **If you condemn someone** else for something that they have done, you are really condemning yourself because you have done it some time too.
- ☞ **We live** in a constant state of Denial that we are just as bad as the people that we condemn.

**Cartoon about denial**

Still not convinced that this is what Jesus is talking about?

## Matthew 7

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 out of your brother's eye.

### **Pictures, plank in the eye**

Jesus shows how much he understands about human nature:

- ☞ **Here we see 2 people**, one notices the sin in another person's life and wants to help remove it, at the same time he doesn't even notice the bigger sin in his own life.

**It is easy for us to excuse our own sin problem but at the same time we can easily judge sin in someone else's life.**

- ☞ **Here in verse 3-5** Jesus contrasts the size of the problem, our sins look small, other sins look big.
- ☞ **In reality**, we cannot see how big the plank of sin is in our life.
- ☞ **What we do see** is the speck of sin in others lives.

Jesus is trying to teach us that when we find ourselves noticing the sins of others, it should be a RED FLAG to us to stop and look at our own life...

- ☞ **When we do**, we will see that we are guilty of the same things that we have condemned this person for.
- ☞ **Remember** that your heart is deceitful and it will not let you see your own sin.
- ☞ **It is only by the Word of God** that any of us can see that we have a problem.

## Romans 7:7

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known** sin except through the law

## Romans 10:17

So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.

**Our natural tendency is to deny our sins, and focus on others.**

- ☞ **One of the reasons** that we come to church, is to hear the Word of God, so that it might shine a light upon our hearts and let us see the truth of how much we are self deceived.
- ☞ **As we are going through this study** this morning, the Holy Spirit is revealing truths to us about ourselves that will convict us and perhaps make us feel uncomfortable.

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You can respond to that conviction and make a decision to change your behavior, or you can deny the Holy Spirit's conviction, and leave here this morning unchanged.

- ☞ **What Jesus would have us do**, is that when the Holy Spirit convicts us, we respond honestly by saying *“Yes Lord, you are right, change me...I want to be changed...”*

**At the end of this study this morning, we are going to give you an opportunity to come before the Lord and do something about whatever it is that He has been speaking to you about.**

Many times what we see as a bad quality in the life of a person, is really a good quality that this person has.

- ☞ **A person** who is seen as a **“Control Freak”**, is really a person who is detailed, organized, prompt and a good leader.
- ☞ **A person** who is **“Very Sensitive”** and easily hurt, is actually someone that is also very sensitive to the feelings and need of others.
- ☞ **A perfectionist** is really someone who wants to do a job well and desires to please other people.

The problem is that most of us only focus on the what we see are bad qualities:

- ☞ *“That guy is a control Freak”.*
- ☞ *“They are way too sensitive...”*
- ☞ *“What a perfectionist that guy is...”*

**I am so glad that Jesus knows how to develop those seemingly bad qualities into great success...**

Most of us would never have chosen the men that Jesus chose to follow Him, based on their outward behavior.

- ☞ **Peter was loud**, impulsive, talked too much, said things without thinking about them.
- ☞ **When the day** of Jesus' crucifixion was near, Jesus told the disciples that he was going to Jerusalem to die, Peter vigorously argued with the Lord about this and then told Him:

### **Luke 22:33-34**

33 But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.”

34 Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.

James and John were called **“Sons of Thunder”**, and not because they ate too much spicy food.

- ☞ **James and John** had quick, judgmental attitudes about people.

**When Jesus came to the Samaritans, he sent messengers ahead to prepare the people for Jesus.**

☞ **Because the Samaritans knew** that Jesus was stopping by to see them on his way to Jerusalem to also teach the Jews, whom the Samaritans hated, they rejected Jesus.

Because they rejected Jesus, James and John asked Jesus:

### **Luke 9:54**

And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command **fire to come down** from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”

Let’s recap the kind of men that Jesus chose:

#### **PETER-Impulsive**

Vibrant and fiery. He was a great leader. He is impulsive and changed his mind readily.

#### **SIMON-Materialistic**

Simon Zelotes. his concerns were monies and properties. Simon was outspoken and determined. He is known as Simon the Zealot, he preferred security and wealth. Simon was known for his materialism

#### **JAMES-No Body**

Nothing is known about this James.

A wonderful speaker, he became the preacher of the church in Jerusalem. he is eloquent with his words.

#### **ANDREW-Insecure**

Andrew, brother of Peter, the fisherman.

A loner, and homebody; dependent upon his family.

Andrew was not one to lead. Jesus told him “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Andrew was the sympathetic disciple.

#### **JOHN-Prideful**

John is seen as a leader of the Early church and said to have written a great many of the books in the New Testament, including the Gospel of John, Epistles John 1, John 2, and John 3 as well as Revelation.

He adored the spotlight.

He writes of himself in his books.

*...leaning on Jesus’ bosom, one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved...* John 13:23

Who better to make this claim than he himself, as he wrote the Gospel of John?

#### **PHILIP-Perfectionist**

Always calculating and enquiring.

Wanting to know more.

Philip introduced of Jesus to Nathaniel.

Known for his in depth study of subjects, researching before committing.

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*...We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. John 1:45*

Philip knew the references made of the Messiah in the Old Testament

Extremely concerned with details.

If they are speaking on any subject, one can rest assured that they have studied what they speak of extensively.

### **NATHANIEL-Skeptic**

Nathaniel or Bartholomew

A skeptic. Nathaniel's first response to being told of Jesus of Nazareth was one of incredulous: "Nazareth?! Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Very clear and defined opinions.

Nathaniel called Bartholomew was also known as the persuasive evangelist.

He was a leader able to get others to see their side of anything, just as with

### **THOMAS-Doubter**

Doubting Thomas called Didymus.

Thomas was very suspicious of the disciple's story of Jesus' appearance following the Resurrection, as he had not been present.

Thomas said the only way he would buy the story was if he could place his fingers into Jesus' sides.

*Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. John 20:25*

Once proof is given; they are steadfast and secure in their faithfulness; never swaying from their goal or beliefs.

### **JAMES-Stubborn**

James, son of Zebedee, is the Sagittarius. Together, with the other fire signs Peter a lover of travel and intuitive.

Honesty and justice were sacred to him and he had great intellect.

James was the first martyr of the twelve, being put to death by King Herod Agrippa, dying for that which he believed.

He will not change his beliefs to save his own neck; he is honest and steadfast, no matter the cost to himself or others. One of the most loyal signs, James was also loyal to Jesus.

*And James...come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. Mark 10:35*

### **MATTHEW-Hated**

The tax collector, hated by the Jews.

He was detailed well organized and knew how to keep accurate records.

### **THADDEUS-Wavering, ulterior motives**

Uncertainty, curiosity, questioning others without tact and in a rude manner. At the Last Supper, Thaddeus was found questioning Jesus.

*Lord how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? John 14:22*

Offering loyal friendship he will question what will be his own gain.

They are not fighters and are not willing to fight for what they believe. They would much rather to change their opinion to stand with the crowd.

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## **JUDAS**

Judas betrayed his friend and Lord Jesus.

### **So let's see, Jesus chose men who were:**

Impulsive, Materialistic, A No Body, Insecure, Prideful, Perfectionist, Skeptic, Doubter, Stubborn, Hated, Wavering/Ulterior Motives, Betrayer.

**In this world we will misunderstand the true motivations of people as we observe them.**

- ☞ **Jesus said**, be careful when you do that, because what you are judging about this person is also a reflection on your own behavior.
- ☞ Look a little deeper into the heart of people and you will see that underneath what you think is a bad quality, is actually a very good quality.

Throughout history, some of the most awesome people, have been misunderstood, and thought of as never being able to do anything worthwhile.

### **Film Clip: Famous Failures**

Do you know why all of these now famous people were once seen as failures?

- ☞ **Because** of the way that people falsely judged them.
- ☞ **Perhaps** you have been falsely judged by people.
- ☞ **Aren't you glad** that the Lord knows the truth about you?
- ☞ **Jesus chose** 12 misfits.
- ☞ **He already knew** about all their faults.
- ☞ **But He chose**
- ☞ **Because Jesus knows** how to take the little things that just drive people in the world crazy, and make them qualities that are very useful to Him.

### **Perhaps you are:**

Impulsive  
Materialistic  
A No Body  
Insecure  
Prideful  
Perfectionist  
Skeptic  
Doubter  
Stubborn  
Hated  
Wavering/Ulterior Motives

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But the most important lesson from all of this morning for us is that we often make these wrong assumptions about people ourselves.

- ⌘ **They are wrong** because we don't really know what is in the heart of a person.
- ⌘ **We don't know** what kind of personal battle they are fighting right now.
- ⌘ **Maybe they are just doing** the best that they can.
- ⌘ **Perhaps what you see** as a bad or irritating quality in another person, is actually hiding a wonderful quality.
- ⌘ **Maybe** you are just looking at them the wrong way.
- ⌘ **Maybe you are judging something** in them, because it is also a weakness that you have.

**They thought that Thomas Edison was stupid, because of his outward actions...Thomas Edison is one of the most brilliant men that ever lived.**

### **1 Corinthians 4:5**

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.