

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Matthew 7:1 - 6

1. How did you go with a keeping a list of the things you worry about? Do you worry about what others think of you? Why do you care?

Reading the passage

2. In many places in Scripture, judgement is not optional but required – you may like to read John 7:24; 1 Cor 5:5; Gal 1:8-9; Phil 3:2; 1 John 4:1. How else does one discern pigs and dogs (v6), or a good tree / bad tree (v15-20)?
3. So Jesus words ‘do not judge’ (7:1) seem less like a blanket prohibition and more a warning against judging with a critical spirit. How does v2 help us understand what Jesus means?
4. Measure for measure. Read Matthew 6:14-15; 7:2 and 7:12. What is the principle at work here?
5. We have received mercy from God Matt 6:12-15; 18:21-35. What should this affect our attitude towards others? (5:5)
6. Jesus doesn’t oppose correction; what does he oppose? (Matthew 7:5; 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1-5). What do we need be working on?

Reflecting on life

7. Are we judgemental (in the negatively critical way) of one another? What about of unbelievers? Why so? How does Jesus call us to change?
8. When we are judgemental, what have we lost sight of? What is the antidote?
9. How can we correct, admonish, forgive and encourage one another (all of which require a measure of judgement) in a spirit of love and grace?

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SERMON OUTLINE –25 September 2016

Matthew 7:1 - 6 ~ Don't judge

An awkward moment with Jerry Bridges...

Warning against a critical spirit

What it can't mean

- Jesus says come as you are; not stay as you are
- Never calling someone on poor behaviour

What it might mean

- The danger of sanctifying tradition or personal preference
- The danger of 'I am the only one left...'

What it must mean

- It really matters! (v2 Measure for measure! Matthew 18:23-30)
- Charitable assumptions
- The need for courage
- Search the scriptures