

S. W. June 6, 82 P.M. -  
(Adams) -  
Rogers

"IS IT UNCHRISTIAN TO JUDGE OTHERS?"

Matthew 7:1-5

That sermon got on my toes.

There is a time and place to take a look at ourselves.

We talk today about a very common sin -- you may say I'm talking about you. Pervades all of life.

Sin of unconverted.

Sin of Christians.

Sin in church.

The sin of being hypercritical and judgmental, fault-finding, picking to pieces someone else, cutting people down to our size. Greek Mythology - a story - Proclustes - if he captured someone he took them to his cave where he had an iron bedstead. He measured them on that bed -- if they were too short - he stretched them. If too long, he just chopped off his legs. Story goes that Theseus destroyed Proclustes, but he did not destroy the iron bed, it is in a lot of homes - we look around and measure people on our bed and chop off, and make them fit.

Jesus in the sermon very directly and plainly gave instructions.

Two word mandate. He did not say it is good or desirable if you do not judge.

He gave a mandate -- no way to miss -- judge not!

He gave a warning - watch out, if you find yourself in this pattern of life, you will be judged, weighed on the same scales that you weigh others. You will be measured by the same measuring stick by which you measure others.

Then others will see the faults in your life and will say, that is a hypocrite, you will be charged with hypocrisy, and will destroy your usefulness, your witness and effectiveness.

A common sin of all of us. Sometimes we consider ourselves God's prosecuting attorney. It is our business to discover faults in others - in a wife or a husband - our children - neighbors - competitors at the job. This has become a great American past-time. Because we have freedom of speech -- feel free to find fault with every structure and institution, government, president, leaders even in church. It has become a way of life.

## I. WHY DO WE DO THIS?

Everyday we live we make judgments about people when we vote or look at men. Two men came out of Germany - Albert Schweitzer and Adolf Hitler -- not judge alike - one benevolent - the other plunged the world into war.

Jesus is talking about a habit - accuser - slanderer.

First, it is a way of salving our own conscience.

Makes us feel better if we find somebody else bad - we have weaknesses but, find some one just as weak makes us feel good.



Now that is not logical -- here are 10,000 people dying of cancer or heart disease. Does that cure my illness.

Fact I find morally sick folks -- not help me one bit.

2 - Second, they tell us that it helps us build up ourselves to tear somebody else down.

Certain ego fulfillment, particularly if it is somebody above us.

I have never known a person who built their house by tearing down the neighbor's house. This is false security.

3 - Third - sometimes it is to cover up the same sin or tendency in our own lives.

We judge - condemn and pass on judgment to our own hurt.

Example a young man said to his Pastor - "I have a problem. I think my wife is being unfaithful to me. What makes you think that? I have no evidence -- there is nothing she has done - but I feel she may be loving someone else.

As the Pastor probed, he discovered this young man had a past history of gross immorality and he struggled with the same temptation now after marriage. Consciously or subconsciously he was passing judgment upon her.

There are other points as to why we judge but Jesus said - Judge Not!

## II. WHAT IS WRONG WITH JUDGMENT?

Why did Jesus say this was wrong?

1 First, Ridiculous

To pass judgment, picking out flaws - faults. Jesus showed us how ridiculous it is - here is a man with a beam in his eye and he goes around pulling out the mote in another's eye.

Translate into everyday terms - you have a 2x4 sticking out of your eye, can you see it, everybody can see this big 2x4 in your eye. Ridiculous, you look at another and say let me pick that splinter out of your eye!

Exaggeration for effect.

We have a 2x4 and we start knit-picking, picking out little faults. Here is what is wrong with you. We pick that wife to pieces - that husband - child - friend - church member. Did you know this or that - we either tell them or tell someone else. It really makes it ridiculous.

2 Second - it is presumptuous.

Judging is in the providence of God. We cannot know the circumstances - the truth - only God knows.

3 Third - it widens the gulf between us and the person we want to help, kills our usefulness.

Love builds bridges - criticism widens the chasm.

We say - now - I really want to help you, but I want to tell you this for your



own good! Look out when some one says that.

The gulf starts widening right now.

Did you know that so and so . . . . a person at that point backs up and begins to bristle.

You have widened the gulf and killed all possibility for your really being effective.

You should build a bridge of love - not open a chasm of criticism and judgment.

Examine how Jesus did it when he saw Zaccheus. He went down to Jericho where he lived and despised tax gatherer named Zaccheus. Had sold out to the Romans - squeezed all he could and make a great clear profit.

He had climbed a tree to see Jesus. What did Jesus say? You are living in sin, quit your job, you are a traitor, a scoundrel, dishonest, and make people pay two or three times as much taxes as necessary, get on your knees and confess!

The story would have been different, if Jesus had done that.

But Jesus did not condemn that rascal or pass judgment - he loved him. I'm going home with you. Zaccheus was over-whelmed.

The little man saw his fault - if I have wronged any man I will give it back fourfold.

I want to get my life straightened out and receive Jesus in my heart.

When we pass judgments that put people down - point out their faults -- tell them of their sins and criticize them - put them in a bad light.

Dr. John L. Hill called a young ministerial student in his office and talked to him about a great future. I want you to be the best you can for Jesus. He was always good to the young man. Real help.

Fourth, Jesus said it is blinding.

When we become splinter - pickers, knit-pickers, hypercritical, finding fault, pointing out sins in others lives -- it blinds us to the 2x4 in our own eyes.

We just cannot see our own faults. We cannot deal with them because we are so intent on seeing the faults in others.

Go into the country, see tiny specks in the sky . . . those are buzzards. What are they doing high and floating on the breeze?

If you look for the bad all the time and you get in the habit of looking for the bad . . . there will come a day when you never see the good in anybody.

Are the buzzards looking at the beautiful scenery of Virginia, the wheat and



corn fields. No -- a buzzard is looking for one thing . . . something dead, rotten, decaying.

The minute he finds it - he plunges down, right to it, and so do all the other buzzards and vultures.

Jesus says this can happen to us - we can get the habit of a buzzard's eyes -- always looking for what is wrong - never see good.

Suppose you invite me home for dinner. You have fried chicken - gravy - cornbread - corn - sweet potatoes - black-eye peas - a big Bermuda onion - homemade apple pie hot from the oven. Everything I like - I stuff myself.

In the middle of the table is a dish of stewed okra -- I say why did you cook that -- I don't eat that - not fit to eat cooked that way - and I talk about that one mistake you made.

How would you feel?

Later, other members, ask me about the dinner and I tell them, the woman had a bowl of stewed okra. Not fit for dogs and she knows I don't like it.

Do you understand what I'm talking about. We get the habit - here's the latest gossip - latest word - that fault - flaw.

Husband comes home complaining, fussing because she leaves the cap off the toothpaste!

Preachers are not immune, we are human. We struggle at this point. Spurgeon said "I have a struggle when I listen to another Preacher, I am so critical of the mistakes in his delivery, that I got nothing out of the sermon."

Jesus said it will blind you and you cannot get good by focusing always with a buzzard's eye on things that are wrong. Blind you to your own faults.

5 Fifth - fault-finding attitude is harmful to us inside.

It makes us on the defensive.

A long critical tongue may harm someone else, one sure thing, it does something to you inside.

Dr's. Fink - Gibson - Clinic. A wealthy industrialist came to find out what is wrong. My blood pressure shoots up, I worry - toss - not sleep.

I live clean life morally.

I read books on tension - no good.

Give me a key, or button - or medicine I can take.

Long study - (strong opinionated, very judgmental, severe in criticism of others, hypercritical.)



Deal with your critical, judgmental attitude. He came to grips with that

and was helped.

Dr. James Lynch - Say "The rate of Breathing + rate of speech" makes Blood Pressure <sup>change</sup> change.  
"When they talk they forget to breathe - some speak rapidly + shewnd thin words."  
at ministry manhood, Lynch said "we teach them how to talk - Breathe - + relax". One person on  
Hypertension medicine 20 yrs has been taken off. "Really, the only thing that lowers blood pressure is to  
Something causing you to lose sleep, grit your teeth, blow up. Fault someone  
- angry - impatient. Teach people how to express love." That's related to self,

III. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

1 First - recognize it as sin. Admit that like getting drunk on whiskey it is a  
sin of the flesh. Sin against God.

2 Second - confess it to God.  
Get it out of your life, on your knees, ask God to forgive you.

Dr. Alexander Whyte said three tests to make of gossip.

1. Ask if it is true. Do I know it for a fact?
  2. Is it necessary to tell it? Is it necessary to say? You do not have to tell everything you know.
  3. Is it kind? Will it help, up-lift, make the person feel better or hurt.
- Pass it through these three gates.

3 Third, repent of that sin and turn into a new direction.

Scientific study by Dr. Henry Goddard, of effects of criticism upon energy power.  
(Ergograph).

Put boy on treadmill - getting tired - if they said to boy you are doing good, I'm proud of you, suddenly the energy curve would go up.

On the other hand they say - you are dragging your feet - you are lazy - pick it up - you are getting behind - critical - the energy curve would go down.

With children - criticize them and their motivation goes down. Praise them and it rises. That is true of all of us.

Beautiful story of Michelangelo, walking the streets of Florence, Italy. Saw a rejected piece of twisted marble - looked at it. I would like to have that ugly piece of marble, I see an angel in that mass and it is my task to bring that angel out.

God help us, it is our business to see the angel in others, see the good rather than the flaws.

We are held accountable.

Let Christ bring the angel out of you -- surrender your life.

He will do it - He sees the best.

If you are not a Christian -- give your life publicly to him and be baptized. Would you come to unite with the church, to move your letter, to take your stand?

Whatever it is that you ought to do, do it for Jesus' sake and for his church's