

## The Mercy Seat      *Matt. 7:1-2*

Sermon Context: God's reality as Father, Provider and, now, Judge.

How does the reality of the Father color our perception of people: of ourselves and others?

Chapter Context: we must judge *rightly* to live in the Kingdom of God

Jesus commands us to judge with penetrating insight, but also protective mercy.

Jesus calls you to:

1. Discern your own sin—take the log out of your eye (v.3)
2. Discern your brother's sin—take the speck out of his eye (v.5)
3. Discern where you invest yourself—don't throw pearls before pigs (v.6)
4. Discern God's nature—He is a good Father! (v.11)
5. Discern how you should treat others—golden rule (v.12)
6. Discern your spiritual path—the narrow way of obedience (v.13)
7. Discern false prophets—know them by how they live—**fruit** (v.20)
8. Discern the truth of your own salvation—I never knew you (v.23)

Paragraph Context: we are so much more gracious to ourselves than to others

- Take the standard you use for others, and apply it to yourself (v.1-5).
- Take the standard you use for yourself, and apply it to others (v.12).

Overview:

Righteous judgment == judging others the way God judges us

1. Godly Judgment is Complex
2. Godly Judgment is a Consequence
3. Godly Judgment has Consequences

### **Godly Judgment is Complex.**

To illustrate this, we examine God's posture toward judgment.

Jesus Christ:

1. Sits on the throne
2. Rests in perfection
3. Walks in our shoes
4. Hangs in our place
5. Stands in our defense

Heb. 4:13: No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Rom. 12:19: Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Psalm 38:14: I have become like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

John 5:27: And he has given him authority to execute judgment, **because** he is the Son of Man.

John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### **Godly Judgment *is* a Consequence**

Why do we condemn others?

1. To justify our opinion—I have a very high opinion of my opinion.
2. To justify our position in life—tearing someone else down
3. To justify our importance—do I have something worth hearing? Gossip
4. To justify our respect—do people agree with my assessment?

We judge because we don't believe God has already justified our existence with His love.

We condemn because we do not really know that God has released our condemnation.

### **Godly Judgment *Has* Consequences**

1. For others:

- Fallen believers will be welcomed back and restored
- Non-believers will be interested—not repelled by the Church
- We will notice and minister to people whom the world overlooks

2. For us (professing Christians):

1. **The measure of wrath**—Hanged on same gallows you made for your enemies

- You *never* received mercy. You were *never* changed by grace.
- All you extended to others was: suspicion, criticism, superiority, abuse, bitterness, gossip, slander, revenge
- God will not try to understand you, will not pity you, will not excuse, will not forget, will not forgive, will not overlook, will not parole.

2. **The measure of grace**—Fed with the same feast you made for your friends

- You received God's mercy. You *were* changed by grace.
- All you extended to others was: understanding, compassion, encouragement, service, honor, forgiveness, friendship, sacrifice.
- God will understand you, forgive you, forget your sins, reward your service and out-give all your generosity to others.