

MOTE AND BEAM

Int.

1. Aim: To show that it is wrong to judge others and then show why it is wrong and the remedy.
2. Matt. 7:1-5 NKJV "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. 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."
3. We need to learn the kind of judging that Jesus forbids so we will not do it.

Discussion

I. WHAT IS JUDGING ?

- A. The kind that Jesus does not forbid - some is OK
 1. Judgments in civil courts - Rom. 13:1-7
 2. Church discipline - withdrawing from disorderly - 1 Cor. 5:12
 3. Recognizing false teachers - 1 Jn. 4:1
 4. Individual judgments we must make of wrong doers and evil people - Tit. 3:10-11
- B. The kind of Judging that Jesus forbids - wrong
 1. Judging from ill-will - without sufficient evidence
 2. Sharp, unjust criticism, slander
 3. Putting the worst possible interpretation on their work and actions
 4. Jesus condemns this type of judging - harsh, hasty, unfounded, uncharitable, slanderous, ill-natured

5. Judging - disposition to look unfavorably on the character and actions of others which always leads to the pronouncing of rash, unjust, unlovely condemnations."
6. Being a mote hunter is the judging that God condemns !

II. WHAT CAUSES MOTE HUNTING ?

A. Effort to divert attention from one's own sins and shortcomings

1. Judas acted like he cared for the poor
2. He accused Mary of wastefulness
3. Yet he had been stealing money from the bag - John 12:5-6

B. Effort to justify own sinful life

1. Will find fault in another and will magnify it and then sit back and think "Why I'm not so bad after all."
2. We cannot white wash ourselves while blackening others
3. We often condemn in others that of which we ourselves are guilty - Rm. 2:1
4. The person who complains, "These are the most unfriendly people" may be very cool and unfriendly.

C. Because of envy and hatred

1. Envy seeks to get rid of its victim
2. Saul tried to Kill David - Haman built gallows for Mordecai
3. Some judge because they want to hurt and wound

III. MOTE HUNTER IS WORSE THAN VICTIM

A. Beam in His Own Eye

1. Beam is a large piece of timber and a mote is a small twig or chip or splinter
2. Beam - the desire to look for motes in others is the beam in our eyes that condemns us.
3. The beam is that attitude of watching for something in his brother to condemn
4. The passion and desire for fault finding is a larger fault than the fault that is found in another, no matter what the sin might be.
5. Nothing more ungodly and unchristlike than a critical spirit or always hunting motes in others.

B. Thou Hypocrite

1. He is called a hypocrite for he condemns a fault in another person's life that he doesn't like but ignores them in others that he likes, especially himself
2. He pretends to be an enemy of sin
3. But if he really were then he would also be an enemy to his own sin !
 - a. Rom. 2:1
 - b. Rom. 2:21-23
 - c. A person is fit to judge others who jealously and severely judges himself.
4. When he does reprove faults in others he will do it with:
 - a. Reluctance not satisfaction
 - b. Moderation not exaggeration
 - c. Love not criticism and hatred

IV. WHY IS IT UNJUST TO JUDGE OTHERS ?

A. We do not know all the facts and circumstances

1. If we knew all the circumstances and facts we might act in a different way
2. Examples:
 - a. Passenger on train was trying to get some sleep and screamed out to a father who was holding his crying child, "Why don't you take that baby to its mother?"
He didn't know that the mothers body was in the baggage car.
 - b. A child and a dog wandered from home. Several hours later the dog appeared with blood all over him. The father thought the dog had killed the child, so he shot the dog. The child was found unharmed and nearby was the body of a panther the dog had slain in protecting the child.
3. We should get all the facts before we jump to judging others.

B. It's hard to be fair in our judgments

1. The Greeks would hold court in the blackness of night so the judge and jury could pass sentence only on hearing the evidence.
2. Quite often we are impartial or unfair in our judgments. A mother had a son and a daughter to get married within a month. Someone asked about their mates.
 - a. "The daughter got such a wonderful husband. He lets her sleep late, insists on her going to the beauty parlor, and will not let her cook, and takes her out to dinner every night."
 - b. "But I'm not so happy for my son. He married a girl who is lazy, sleeps late every morning, spends her time in the beauty parlor, will not cook and makes him take her out all the time."

C. Not everything we condemn is actually sin

1. Hannah was accused of being drunken, but was not - 1 Sam. 1
2. Jesus was accused of blasphemy, but he was not guilty - Mark 2:7

D. The right to judge is not ours but the Lord's.

1. Judgment is trespassing on the rights of God.
2. We are not to be judges but doers -
 - a. Jas. 4:11-12
 - b. Forbids harsh words about brethren
 - c. God has always been more severe with a person who presumes to make laws than those who break laws !
 - d. We are to obey not judge the worth of the law.

E. We see only the outward man

1. We cannot see and know the inward man
2. "That's a small iceberg" said an inexperienced sailor. An older sailor replied, "You are only seeing a small portion of the iceberg. The greater portion is beneath the surface."
3. What a difference in attitude we would have toward others if we could see beneath the surface, and know their motives, intents, inner battles and desires.

V. REMEDY FOR JUDGING**A. Love**

1. 1 Cor. 13:7 [Moffat] "...always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient."

2. Love covers a multitude of sins. - 1 Pet. 4:8

B. Consider how despicable it is

1. Mt. 7:3 silly to look for a mote with a beam in our eye !

2. He is a "picker" always looking for a fault upon which to jump! This is despicable.

C. Practice the Golden Rule

1. Matt. 7:12

2. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should think and judge of you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

D. Self examination

1. II Cor 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."

2. "There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it little behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

3. When looking for faults use a mirror and not a telescope.

4. Before condemning another's fault, count ten of your own.

E. Look for the good in others

1. Be like the bee = concentrating on the sweet and beautiful

2. Rather than like the buzzard who concentrates on the dead and the foul rotten things.

3. Barnabas saw good in Paul and helped him - Acts 9:26-31

4. Illustration - piece of white paper with black circle on it - what do you see?

Black circle or white paper. Much more white than black.

F. Ask God's help in overcoming this sin

1. Matt. 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you"

2. We need God's help in this matter

G. Think of the hurt you inflict on your victim

1. Harsh criticism and faultfinding wounds and discourages

2. It destroys a person's reputation and harms his influence.

3. His potential for doing good is hampered by your mote hunting

H. The victim is your brother

1. Contrary to the spirit of brotherhood to always condemn and judge

2. Being members of the same family, with God as our Father, should make a difference

I. Remember that our judgments are often so wrong !

J. Consider what it does to you

1. Blinds you to your own faults

2. Will destroy your friends. Picking them to pieces you will mark them off your list

3. It will rob your happiness and peace of mind

VI. JUDGMENT THAT WILL COME TO THE HARSH JUDGE

- A. He will be judged with the same
 - 1. Matt. 7:2
 - 2. We reap what we sow - Gal. 6:7-8
 - 3. If we are harsh and unkind to others by faultfinding and harsh judgments then we shall receive the same from them and others.
 - 4. We will be treated by others in the way we treat them.
- B. We'll receive judgment from God
 - 1. We will appear before God to be condemned
 - 2. The mote hunter as well as the person with the mote will appear
 - 3. We will give an account for every idle, judgmental, statement we have ever made. -
Matt. 12:36-37 "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36
But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

Conclusion

- 1. Matt. 7:1-5
- 2. We must repent of the sin of judging.
- 3. We must confess and pray for God's forgiveness - Acts 10:22-24
- 4. In the lesson of the Mote and the Beam Jesus is teaching that:
 - a. We should not engage in self-righteous, loveless, harsh, unmerciful judgment
 - b. We are not to feel or act superior
 - c. We must not blind ourselves to our own faults while finding faults in others.

5. John 7:24 "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement."
- a. Do not go by just appearance - outward appearance
 - b. Righteous judgment will involve being fair, honest, just, complete, and with the right motive.
 - c. We are all involved in judging, let us make sure we make righteous judgement

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