

Thursday

Read 1 John 4:1 and Matthew 10:16. In these two verses, we are told to be “shrewd”, to “test”, to not be gullible. How can we be discerning without being judgmental?

How can you apply this in your life this week?

Ask God for wisdom to walk the fine line between discerning and judging. Commit to seek His guidance when you face those situations this week.

Friday

Read Matthew 7:7-11. Why is it so important for Christians to have this vision of God?

What is the image many people have instead?

How can you apply this to your life right now?

Thank God today for His love for you and His concern for your life. Ask Him to remind through the day of the truth about who He is.

Saturday

Read Matthew 7:7. Do you honestly seek, ask, knock for the truth from God?

What does this verse say will happen if you do?

If you never have before, today pray that God will open the door to your knocking and receive you as His own! Please pray for the weekend services, that they will be filled with enthusiasm and real ministry!

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.” *Matthew 7:1 (NIV)*

Yet there are other verses that tell me things like:

“Watch out for false prophets.” *Matthew 7:15a*

“...be as shrewd as snakes...” *Matthew 10:16b*

“...do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” *1 John 4:1*

What does it all mean?

Before you judge, remember these 4 principles:

1. The principle of _____

I will be judged the way I judge others

“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” *Matthew 7:2*

2. The principle of _____

I must judge myself before judging others

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” *Matthew 7:3-5*

The goal is _____ not _____

3. The principle of _____

I should concentrate on the receptive

“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.” *Matthew 7:6*

How to confront sin

Deal with it _____ (Galatians 6:1a)

Deal with it _____ (Galatians 6:1b)

Deal with it _____ (Matthew 18:15)

Deal with it _____ (2 Corinthians 2:7,8)

4. The principle of _____

I must reconnect with the Father's mercy to me!

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" *Matthew 7:9-11*

The bottom line:

When I _____ grace, I can _____ grace

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

Monday

Look back over the notes from Sunday. Which points and verses particularly made an impact on you? Why?

In what areas, or about which subjects, do you tend to sometimes be judgmental?

If you judged yourself before judging others, what weaknesses would you point out to yourself — areas of sin or insensitivity that you need to work on — at this point in your life?

Is there anyone you have judged in the past to whom you need to show mercy?

Do you have others in your life you trust, people you can ask for honest feedback about your weaknesses? If so, do that this week, even today!

Thank God that He is merciful toward you. Ask Him to help you judge yourself this week before judging others, and to help you show mercy to those who have fallen.

Tuesday

Read Leviticus 19:15. Who are the two groups Moses says are easy to misjudge?

How are these two groups shown partiality — for better or for worse?

Do you show partiality or favoritism to either of these groups?

Ask God today to give you a fair spirit in dealing with all people, regardless of their economic situation.

Wednesday

Read 1 Samuel 16:7. In what ways do people look at the outward appearance when we judge? Make a list of all the "outward" things we tend to look for:

How do you fall into this trap at times?

What is the solution?

What action will you take this week to begin to value the inside of people more than the outside?

Pray that you will begin to see people as God sees them: with love and compassion.



Memory Verse

"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Matthew 7:2 (NIV)