

# SERMON PASSAGE GUIDE

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## *This Week's Passage*

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

<sup>6</sup> "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.



## *Prepare Your Heart & Mind*

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

## *Reflect/Connect*

*Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.*

- When you feel the urge to judge or criticize someone else, what kinds of situations or people tend to bring that out in you?
- In a culture that often rewards quick outrage and harsh criticism (especially online), why is it so naturally tempting to point out the flaws and failures of others?

## *Grow in the Word*

These questions are designed to guide your personal study, or spark spiritual conversation in your Life Group.

Jesus warns His followers not to judge, explaining that they will be judged by the exact same standard of measure they use for others. He then uses an exaggerated, comical image of a person trying to remove a tiny speck of sawdust from a brother's eye while completely ignoring a massive log in their own eye. Jesus commands them to first remove the log from their own eye so they can see clearly to help remove the speck from their brother's eye (v. 1-5).

- How does knowing that God will use our own standard of measurement change the way we evaluate others?
- Why is it important that Jesus calls His followers to deal with their own sin first before trying to help someone else?
- What is the difference between hypocritical judgment and humble, restorative correction? Consider Paul's instructions in Galatians 6:1.

Immediately after warning against hypocritical judgment, Jesus calls His followers to discernment. He tells them not to give what is holy to dogs, and not to throw their pearls before swine, warning that the animals will simply trample the pearls and turn to attack them (v. 6).

- What do the images of "dogs" and "pigs" suggest about a person's posture toward something valuable or sacred? How might this relate to someone's readiness to receive truth? See Proverbs 9:7-8; 23:9.
- Jesus describes "what is holy" and "pearls" as being at risk of being rejected or trampled. What kinds of truths or conversations in the Christian life might fall into this category?
- How can you discern when to continue sharing truth with someone and when it may be wise to step back? What would it look like to apply that kind of discernment in a current relationship or situation? See also Acts 13:45-46; Titus 3:10-11; 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

## *Practice Together*

This section offers a simple way to live out the truths of the passage in everyday life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

- Spend time this week asking the Father to reveal any areas where you may be quick to judge others while overlooking your own sin, and take time to confess those honestly before Him.
- In a current relationship, prayerfully consider how to respond with both humility and discernment, whether that means leaning into a conversation or wisely stepping back, and ask God to guide your words and timing.

