**Judging and Asking**

*Matthew 7:1-12*

1. Judge Not! (v. 1-6)
2. Not at all?

* No – (v. 15-16); 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 (a responsibility of the church is to judge)

1. Forbidden Judgment

* Hypocritical – (v. 3-5)
* Superficial – *“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."* – John 7:24; James 2:1; 4:11-12 (make a judgment that shouldn’t be made.)
* Self-Righteous – *“God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.”* – Luke 18:11 (Pharisee)
* Unmerciful – *“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”* – James 2:13; Matthew 5:7
* Evil Motive – Daniel 6:4

“Measured back to you” – 6:14-15; James 2:13

1. Righteous Judgment

* Humble/Pure Motive – Galatians 6:1-5
* With clear vision – (v. 3-5)
* With the word – John 12:47-48; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
* Prudent – (v. 6); Acts 13:45-46; *"He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. (8) Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.”* – Proverbs 9:7-9

We need to judge to save people – James 5:19-20

1. Ask!
2. Ask, Seek, and Knock.

* Ask (let request be made known) – *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”* – Philippians 4:6
* Seek (must be active) – *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* – Hebrews 11:6
* Knock (when found, must take action – door of opportunity) – *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”* – 2 Thessalonians 3:10

The Golden Rule – (v. 12) – Luke 10:30-37 (good Samaritan – priest, Levite, then Samaritan)

1. Ask, Seek, and Knock (spiritual)

* *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (32) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* – John 8:31-32; Romans 2:6-11

The Golden Rule – (v. 12) – *“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.”* – James 2:1

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” –* Mark 16:15

*“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”* – 1 Timothy 4:16

* Wouldn’t you want the gospel preached to you if you were lost?