



# LET'S VISIT

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## JUDGING OTHERS

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. As a part of that sermon, Matthew 7:1 is a passage of scripture that has suffered much abuse. In fact, it often bothers me the way this passage is misused.

“Judge not that you be not judged” is quoted often by a lot of people who have no earthly idea what Jesus meant by that statement. On the other hand, it’s nice to have a verse to prove what you already want to believe, and that is often the manner in which this verse is used. It has been used to convey the idea “you live your lifestyle and I will live mine”. But, don’t tell me how to live, and certainly don’t you try to impose your standards of morality on me.

I would venture to say that those who quote this verse the most are the very ones who understand it the least. It just happens to fall into line with the tone and spirit of the times in which we live. We must understand that there is a difference between being judgmental and being discerning.

Perhaps an old Fable from Aesop would help us to understand the concept. A Lion, unable from old age and infirmities to provide himself with food by force, resolved to do so by savvy or wit. He returned to his den, and lying down there, pretended to be sick, taking care that his sickness should be publicly known. The beasts expressed their sorrow, and came one by one to his den, where the Lion devoured them. After many of the beasts had thus disappeared, the Fox discovered the trick and presenting himself to the Lion, stood on the outside of the cave, at a respectful distance, and asked him how he was. “I am very sick,” replied the Lion, “but why do you stand without? Pray enter within to talk with me.” “No, thank you,” said the Fox. “I notice that there are many prints of feet entering your cave, but I see no

trace of any returning.” Smart fox. He was very discerning.

In this passage, Jesus is speaking about self-righteous, loveless, censorious judgment. It is against the practice of ill-natured criticism, hasty and half-formed opinions and the conscious or unconscious assertion of our own superiority. It is not a teaching against discernment.

Jesus' words are often used by the unlearned to forbid all manner of judgment. They are used to forbid adverse or unfavorable criticism. Things like pointing out a fault in someone else, even if it truly is “constructive” criticism. It is used to forbid exposing those who are teaching error. It requires a judgment in order to consider whether or not someone is teaching error. Therefore, some people, in light of Matthew 7:1-2 believe we cannot speak out against those who teach error.

Jesus did not rule out “all” forms of judgment. Notice the immediate context of the passage. There are some cases where proper judgment must be made. Verse 6 implies judgment is to be made as to who are “dogs” and who are “hogs”. Otherwise, how can we know when not to give that which is holy to “dogs”. How can we know when not to cast our pearls before swine?

Matthew 7:15-20 implies we must make judgments in determining who is a false teacher Jesus  
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### In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSHV 45 –Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday  
DISH channel 239 – 6:00 a.m. Sunday  
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

# Gathered Here and There



## What Is The Church?

For The Pantry. . .

March 8 – Pasta Sauce



March 1, 2026  
\$ 2,458.00

**The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"**

**"Judging Others" – Continued from page 1**

says, "by their fruits ye shall know them". Jesus precludes us being prejudicial. Jesus forbids us to judge people's motives. Jesus does not forbid us from being "fruit inspectors".

You see, there are times when judgment must be made. In John 7:24, Jesus teaches us to "judge with righteous judgment". We have a responsibility to judge the fruit of those within the local church. In I Corinthians 5:9-13 the Corinthian church is instructed to not keep company with immoral people. John tells us in I John 4:1 to "try the spirits, whether they are of God". He tells us this because there are false prophets in the world.

If we read the passage in Matthew 7 within its total context, Jesus defined the kind of judgment he is condemning. He condemns those who judge and are blind to their own faults. He condemns judging without mercy and love. Jesus is here condemning the spirit of censoriousness, judging harshly, self-righteously, without mercy and without love. If we make judgments without showing mercy, then no mercy will be shown when we are judged! That is

what Jesus said in verse 2. The passage does not say that we should never judge, but when we do judge, remember that we shall be judged by the same standards. Let mercy and love temper our judgments.

We must not let people keep us from discernment by playing this "trump card" they are so quick to play. Yet, I don't want God nit-picking me to death because then no one else would get through the line. So, I must not nit-pick others.

We are not to be critical in our spirit, but loving and merciful. When we try to lovingly tell others that if they do not change their life and live God's kind of life they will not go to heaven, we must not let them use this passage as a way to make us feel we have no right to say anything to them. Yet, at the same time, we must make sure our attitude is kind and loving. Next time you are ready to play the critical spirit card on someone, ask yourself, "Is this how I want to be judged?"

*tp*

## On The Lighter Side. . .



OH GREAT, HERE COMES THE CHURCH SPECK INSPECTOR ... AND HIS BEAM IS BIGGER THAN EVER TODAY





## Annual Area Wide Singing



**Friday – April 24, 2026**

**7:00 p.m. to 8:30p.m.**

Refreshments served following the singing

**Communion Preparation - March**

Manny & Brittany Ortiz



**Wednesday  
FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

Mark your calendar and make your plans to join us for our next Wednesday night meal  
March 25, 2026

**Sunday June 7, 2026**

Make your plans to be here and invite your friends and family to come and join us!



**Stephen Wiggins** is making steady improvement and will soon be released to a re-hab facility.

**Martha Jean Golden** will be having a procedure to improve blood flow in her leg.

We extend our sympathy to **Melonie Bradshaw** in the loss of her mother, Norma Magby. Services were held this past Wednesday.

### OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

### "EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

**Tami Abernathy** (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Leslie Adams** (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; **Krista Andrus** (Tim and Norma Perkins niece) **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Gene Perkins** (Tim Perkins aunt) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026**

**Reserve these dates for important events in the life of our Church for 2026**

April 24, 2026 – Area Wide Singing & Fellowship  
June 7, 2026 – "Friends and Family Day"  
September 13, 2026 – "Back To Church Sunday"  
December 6, 2026 – "No Excuse Sunday"  
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Words are wonderful things. They have a beauty and eloquence all their own. Yet, there is often an eloquence without words. "Silence is golden" someone has said. Silence can also be eloquent. Jesus was the master at using the eloquence of silence. He used it many times.

A woman was brought to Him who had been caught in the act of adultery. The law said such a person must be put to death. What must Jesus say? He was silent. He stooped down and wrote in the sand. He said, "Let the sinless one throw the first stone". Then He went on writing. When He looked up, His words and His wise silence had done their work. All the accusers were gone. A penitent woman stood there alone.

He told Peter of the sin he would commit in denial. Peter argued. The day of trial came and Peter sinned. At the right time, Jesus turned and looked at Peter. That was all. He just looked. That was enough to make Peter go out and weep bitterly.

In His trial, He refuted all charges made against Him. The paid liars came back with their exploded stories. It was then Jesus fulfilled a prophecy made about Him and opened not His mouth. The judge and others wondered. But the judge was so impressed with him that he pronounced Him innocent of all fault as he pronounced the sentence of death.

Silence is golden. Silence can be as eloquent as words. Knowing when to speak and when to be silent is one mark of real wisdom.

*it's something to think about.....tlp*

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
Will you?**