



**Sermon on the Mount**  
**Sermon Notes - Part 22**  
**Title: There's Wisdom in Hesitation**  
**June 29th, 2025**

**Main Scriptures:**

- Matthew 7:1-6; James 1:19-20; Exodus 34:6-7; Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

**1. Understanding “Do Not Judge” (Matthew 7:1-2)**

- **Clarification:** Jesus isn't saying “never judge.” He's saying “never condemn”
- **Reflection:** *Discernment* helps people grow in grace. *Condemnation* tears people down.
- **General Definition:** “Judge” = to discern or evaluate - to form an opinion and then act on it
- **Bible Study Tip:** We're meant to interpret “Do not judge” through the parable and proverb-like wisdom that follows

**2. The Plank & the Speck (Matthew 7:3-5)**

- **The *kind of judgement*** Jesus warns about is **condemnation**
  - Condemnation belongs to God - 1 Corinthians 5:12-13
- **(v5)** “Take the plank out of your own eye” - Evaluate ourselves first!
- **What Now?** Jesus doesn't command us to remove the speck...
  - **(v5)** “remove” (Greek = *ekbalein*): an “infinitive of potential”
    - It's something we *might* do, but it's not *required*
- **Reflection:** Clarity doesn't always lead to correction. Sometimes it leads to compassion, restraint, or prayer. Our job isn't to fix someone, it's to love them.

→ **There's wisdom in hesitation**—it's a practice of humble discernment, not condemnation. We should be very hesitant to speak our minds when we see a speck in someone else's eye.

### 3. The Pearls and the Pigs (Matthew 7:6)

- **Reflection:** Judging from pride leads to distorted discernment
- **Jewish Context:** “pearls” = wisdom; “dogs/pigs” = outsiders
  - rabbis taught that God’s commands were for Israel’s eyes only (their interpretation of Psalm 147:19-20)
  - **Jesus challenged this!** He’s saying: Be careful not to throw God’s wisdom at people who aren’t ready to hear it; *especially* when we haven’t looked at ourselves first!
    - Colossians 4:5-6 — be wise; full of grace
    - 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 — it’s God’s job to judge, not ours!
- **Reflection:** If we want to represent Jesus well, then we need to love others enough to not “judge”

### 4. The Heart of the Matter

- Exodus 34:6-7 - This is the *heart* behind the Sermon on the Mount
- James 1:19 - This is the *posture* of Matthew 7:1-6
- **Consider This:** When we stop rushing to condemn and start listening with humility, we begin to love like Jesus.

**“Once contempt is gone, empathy, love, and concern can thrive in our hearts.”**

~ Bible Project, *Sermon on the Mount Podcast*, Episode 30

### 5. Reflection and Application

- How does being quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19) help us respond like Jesus?
- Who in your life needs grace more than correction right now?
- What might help us become more aware of the “planks” in our own eyes?

### 6. Digging Deeper

- Watch or listen to Bible Project Podcast Sermon on the Mount Series, Episodes 30 & 31 via Youtube or bibleproject.com