

The Gospel According to Matthew

Non-Coercive Love

July 25, 2021

Matthew 7v1-12

1 Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. 2 For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. 3 Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

6 Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

7 Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? 10 Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

12 In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

Jesus is alerting us to specific attitudes we often take towards those closest to us.

Can we successfully negotiate personal relationships without letting people know we disapprove?

What happens when we condemn?

Seeing Clearly
and a
Question of Helpfulness

We rarely intend total rejection, but usually that's what comes across.

Cognitive Dissonance

Reciprocity of Condemnation

What if condemnation leads to a cycle of anger and attack, which ultimately leads to contempt?

Galatians 6v1-3 (MSG)
Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

What would it look like if instead of harassing those near us with our judgments and treasures, we stand before them with our helpless requests, while simultaneously standing before the wise and mighty King with our requests for them?

_ Dallas Willard

Healing Dynamic of Request

Resources: *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard,

Looking to Connect?: One of the Narrate staff would love to connect over lunch or coffee. To schedule a time please email info@narratechurch.org and we will get back to you within the week.

Therapist or Spiritual Director?: Email info@narratechurch.org and we will get you the contact of the therapists and directors we recommend.