

Sermon Notes: August 20, 2017

Discerning Our Own Character

Series: "Sermon on the Mount: True Discernment"

Matthew 7:1-6 • Pastor Paul Bradford

- Don't sit in the judge's seat over others, rather seek to understand, otherwise you'll end up in the dock yourself.
- Deal with the integrity gaps in your own life, then you will see clearly to help others.
- Share God's truth with those who are receptive, not with those looking for a fight.

Our Response: Seek to understand others rather than judging them, and prioritize seeing and dealing with integrity gaps in your life, so that you might effectively represent the gospel to others.

Life Application:

- Who am I sitting in judgment over? What can I do to understand them?
- Where is my life not conforming to God's desire for me? What step can I take towards greater integrity?

Discernment versus Judgement

| The discerning person... | The judgmental person... |
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| Judges the behavior or the thought as right or wrong. | Judges the person as good or bad. |
| Rejects the behavior or thought – hates the sin. | Rejects the person – hates the sinner. |
| Understands grace and is able to receive God's grace and the gift of salvation. | Does not understand grace and is unable to receive God's grace and the gift of salvation. |
| Seeks to understand the other person's story and struggles. | Is not interested in listening or understanding, but is only concerned about being right. |
| Sees self as equal to the other. | Sees self as superior to the other. |
| Sees self as a fellow sinner under the one Judge. | Sees self as the judge of the other. |
| Is humbly aware of one's own sin. | Is blind to one's own sin. |