

## **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

### **JULY 18, 2021**

*“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” - Jesus*

1. Read Matthew 7:1-6. What is the big idea? What image is used? What questions do these verses raise?
2. Verse 1 is quoted often by Christians and non-Christians alike. How is this verse usually intended?
3. In verses 2-5, Jesus uses a memorable image. Compare and contrast the sawdust and the log. How are they similar? How are they different? Whose eye was the speck of sawdust in? Whose eye was the plank in? What is the point?
4. Is Jesus commanding us never to judge or recognize another person’s sin? Read Matthew 18:15-17, James 5:19-20, and Galatians 6:1-2. How do these verses shed light on what Jesus is saying in Matthew 7:1-5?
5. Why is it easy for us to see the sins of other people when we are blind to our own sins? What label does Jesus use for this lack of self-awareness? What is essential if we are to grow in self-awareness?
6. How does verse 6 provide some counter-balance to what Jesus says in verses 1-5? Why is it important to discern whether or not a person is willing to receive the help we are offering? Why is it foolish to keep trying when they do not want help?
7. What will it feel like when church is a place of grace where you could learn to follow Jesus surrounded by friends who encourage rather than condemn, where people like you and don’t try to fix you, where a family gently corrects you and guides you back to the God-honoring path? In other words, what will it look like when the theological truth of the gospel proves itself in the relational beauty of the gospel?

*Food for thought (one from the 1500s, one from 1975, one from 2020)...*

*“May a merciful God preserve me from a Christian Church in which everyone is a saint! I want to be and remain in the church and little flock of the fainthearted, the feeble and the ailing, who feel and recognize the wretchedness of their sins, who sigh and cry to God incessantly for comfort and help, who believe in the forgiveness of sins.”*  
- Martin Luther

*“True Christianity produces beauty as well as truth. If we do not show beauty in the way we treat each other, then in the eyes of the world and in the eyes of our own children, we are destroying the truth we proclaim.”*  
- Francis Schaeffer

*“Gospel + safety + time. It’s what everyone needs. A lot of gospel + a lot of safety + a lot of time... This is what our churches must be: gentle environments of gospel + safety + time. It’s where we’re finally free to grow.”*  
- Ray Ortlund