

# Life Church Sermon Scriptures for August 21, 2011

## Judging

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### **KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 7:1-6 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. <sup>6</sup> “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces

### **Matthew 7:1-2 (The Message)**

Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging.

### **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:**

#### **Luke 6:35-42 (NIV)**

<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” <sup>39</sup> He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? <sup>40</sup> The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. <sup>41</sup> “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

#### **James 2:1-4, 13 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>13</sup> ...because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

#### **Galatians 6:1-5 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

#### **Romans 14:1, 4 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord’s help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval.

#### **Proverbs 23:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words.

### **Call to Action:**

1. **Reflect** - we are all guilty of judging; what persons or groups of people have I written off, looked down upon or bad-mouthed?

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2. **Repent** - choose to move from judgment to mercy. Includes forgiveness of wrongs done  
Am I ready to give the same grace to others that I’ve been given?
3. **Remove** the “log”, (often your judgemental attitude or the same sin in you); then help with your brother’s/sister’s speck. When you do this, you
4. **Reveal** the Father’s love

## Discussion Questions

**Reflect** - Is there some individual or group that you have been judging or condemning? Are there people that you have felt are less value to God.

**Repent** - What are ways that you need to change you thinking about these people so that it is more in line with God's heart?

**Remove the "log"** - Is there some sin in your life that God is pointing out that needs to be addressed before you help others with there problem areas?

**Reveal the love of the Father** - What practical ways can you show the Father's love to an individual or group that you have judged in the past?