

## Judging Others

**Read:** Matthew 7:1-6

**Summary:**

Please read the following summary of the preach enabling all to take part and be honest with the questions.

Jesus has been teaching about a negative attitude to our own affairs (do not worry) and now teaches about a negative attitude to the affairs of others (do not judge).

Judge & Judged It appears as if we are all being watched and watching one another, even in the church! What house you rent, what car you drive, what laptop you own, what music you listen to. Jesus is challenging our attitude – if we judge we will be judged... by others and by God.

John Stott *“The command to judge not is not a requirement to be blind, but rather a plea to be generous. Jesus does not tell us to cease to be men ... but to renounce the ambition to be God.”*

Sawdust & Planks Jesus paints a very clear picture of how we can judge others which is often really inappropriate, impractical and impossible. Be very careful when you look at others – you are not even able to judge yourself properly. Look at yourself and be open to the truth and change; as King David did when he was confronted. We are still to be committed to mutually encouraging one another.

Dogs & Pigs This passage has posed many questions. I would suggest that the greatest thing we have is the gospel and we are to give it to all but must also be aware of individuals. Jesus approached people very differently and we must think when we take the gospel: everyone is different, we must treat them differently, our gospel presentation must be up to date, and we must plan how much of the gospel we share.

**Application:**

Please select from the following questions, give everyone the opportunity to take part and make room to pray for one another.

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that was unclear and needs clarifying for you?
2. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
3. Practise telling the gospel to each other in 3 minutes.
4. Who speaks into your life? Why not arrange to meet up with 1 other person in the cell and pray for each other over the next 4 weeks and see what God says to you?
5. Judging starts in the heart. What can you do to make sure you keep your thoughts about others positive? (Is becoming a hermit the answer? Why?)