



Danger of A Judgmental Attitude

“Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye” (Matthew 7:5).

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“Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matthew 7:1).

The danger of a judgmental attitude can be eliminated through gaining the right and full perspectives, because an event viewed from one angle, gives a particular meaning; when viewed from another angle, it gives another meaning; and you can never piece together the true story, until you see the full picture. The above analogy, as well as of the report from the 9 blind men who went to inspect an elephant highlight the danger of drawing conclusions based on incomplete facts. Things are rarely in reality the way they look like at first sight, therefore a quick judgment could be erroneous. Learn from the following:

- 1) Gideon opined “Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of” (Judges 6:13). How far from the truth he was!
- 2) When Lot chose the well watered plains of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13:10), he probably thought he had landed at “The Promised Land”. Oh, how wrong he was, and how terrible the consequences for his choice!
- 3) The Bible tells us that the first person to narrate a story appears right until the counter story is told. Taking sides without hearing the other side of the story can result in believing in lies and supporting the culprit.

“Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye” (Matthew 7:1-5).

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that

is in thine own eye? 42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye” (Luke 6:41-42).

When Jesus commanded “Judge not” He was not against spiritual correction, reproof and rebuke which are clearly commanded in the Bible (1 Timothy 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13; 2:15; Hebrews 12:5); otherwise, He would not have rebuked the Pharisees or corrected the disciples (Matthew 23; Mark 8:33). Rather, He was against a picky, critical and condemnatory attitude towards others while exonerating oneself from the guilt s/he is condemning others about (Romans 2:17-24). In this teaching we learn that:

- 1) We reap what we sow. A critical judgmental attitude towards others attracts a critical judgmental response (Matthew 7:1-2).
- 2) Focusing on the errors of others blinds us to our more serious shortcomings. Note the phrase “... but **perceivest** not the beam that is in thine own eye” (vs41). Matthew’s account “...but **considerest** not...” (vs3) suggests that such attitude is simply hypocrisy. King David passed a severe judgement on a crime he thought another person was guilty of, not knowing that he was judging himself (1 Samuel 12:1-7).
- 3) You cannot safely pull out a mote from your brother’s eye when a beam is covering yours (vs 4,42).
- 4) First things first. It is only when you have first dealt with your sins and shortcomings, will you be able to help others with their relatively minor issues (vs 5, 42).