



Jesus' gospel is not just the offer of salvation, but the declaration of sovereignty. This is the clear message of his Sermon on the Mount. It is a call to find the truly blessed life by taking a narrow path most won't choose—the way of King Jesus.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by pointing out that *the most quoted verse in our culture is "Do not judge"*. Why is that the case? In what circumstances are you most tempted to judge someone? Follow up: **Read Matthew 7:1-5**. What is Jesus getting at when he tells us not to judge others (what is he condemning and trying to correct in this passage)?

2 IS JUDGING WRONG? There is such a thing as right and wrong. *We live in a culture that values tolerance over every other virtue.* How have you experienced that to be true? Follow up: What are some examples of how Jesus "judged" others (see **Matthew 5:20; 6:2, 5, 16; and 7:15**)? What kind of judgment are we called to use?

3 IS JUDGING WRONG? It is never right to ignore wrong. *Sometimes being "judgmental" is actually practicing risky love.* **Read Matthew 5:29-30; 18:15, and Luke 17:3**. What stands out to you from these verses? Follow up: **Read Galatians 6:1 and James 5:20**. How can putting those verses into practice be risky love?

4 IS JUDGING WRONG? There is a right way to confront wrong. *The religious leaders were not judging in order to correct, but in order to condemn.* **Read Luke 18:11 and John 8:10-11**. What stands out to you the most when you compare these two approaches? Follow up: How does it make you feel knowing that *Jesus is going to judge how we judge*?

5 JUDGING RIGHT... Judge yourself more than anyone else. *Our "log" problem is what causes many in the world to conclude that Christians have a love problem.* **Read Matthew 7:4-5**. Why do we often see others' faults so clearly but not our own faults? Follow up: **Read 1 Corinthians 5:12**. What responsibility do we have and not have according to this verse? Share an example of a time the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin personally or communally (through the loving judgment of another Christ follower).

6 JUDGING RIGHT... Go to God before you go anywhere else. **Read Matthew 7:6**. In your own words, how would you explain this teaching to someone? When might it be wise to draw back from sharing words of wisdom or unsolicited advice to others? Follow up: **Read Matthew 7:7-12**. How do these verses connect with the first 5 verses as a model for what we should do when seeking to help others?

7 JUDGING RIGHT... Extend mercy more than anything else. *Jesus would denounce sin, but Jesus would never deny mercy to a sinner.* Why is that distinction so pivotal? Follow up: Rick closed by reminding us that **"Jesus wants us to replace the plank with the cross."** How does the cross change the way you view the sin of others? What is one thing you can do differently this week as a result of what you learned from this message?

