

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Jared explores Matthew 7:1-6, focusing on the command to 'stop passing judgment on one another.' He explains that passing judgment means persistently pushing someone to your truth without considering if they're ready to receive it. Jesus wasn't pushy but knew his audience, balancing truth with tears. The sermon challenges the common interpretation of verse 6 about 'dogs' and 'pigs,' suggesting it's not about avoiding certain people, but rather about being mindful of how we share truth with others.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You would open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to be people who balance truth with grace in our relationships. Give us discernment to know when to speak and when to listen, when to challenge and when to comfort. May our discussion today transform how we interact with one another in ways that honor You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

Think about a time when someone was pushy with their opinion or advice to you. How did it make you feel, and how did you respond?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 7:1-5
2. Romans 14:10-13
3. John 11:35

Questions

1. Pastor Jared defined passing judgment as 'persistently pushing someone to your truth, not considering if they are ready to receive it.' Can you think of a time when you've been guilty of this? What was the outcome?
2. In the sermon, we heard how Jesus responded differently to Martha (with truth) and Mary (with tears) in John 11. Why is it important to 'read the room' when sharing truth with others?
3. What does it mean to 'take the plank out of your own eye' before addressing the 'speck' in someone else's eye? How might this practice change our approach to difficult conversations?
4. The sermon challenged the common interpretation that Matthew 7:6 is about avoiding certain 'unclean' people. How does understanding this verse as being about how we share truth (rather than who we share it with) change its application?
5. Pastor Jared mentioned that we're often either 'fixers' or 'feelers' by nature. Which do you tend to be, and how might you need to balance your natural approach when helping others?

6. What does it mean to 'be patient with the pace of God in a person's life'? How might this patience affect how we interact with others who don't share our beliefs or convictions?
7. The sermon suggested that we should share our personal experiences rather than just 'throwing our pearls' of truth at others. How might sharing your own story be more effective than simply stating what you believe?
8. How can we as a small group create an environment where people feel safe to share their struggles without fear of being judged or receiving unwanted advice?

Life Application

This week, practice being more discerning in your conversations. Before offering advice or correction to someone, pause and ask yourself: 1) Have I removed the 'plank' from my own eye on this issue? 2) Is this person ready to receive what I want to share? 3) Would they benefit more from my truth or my compassion right now? Keep a journal of these interactions and note how this mindfulness changes your relationships. Try to have at least one conversation where you share your personal experience with God's work in your life rather than just stating what you believe to be true.

Key Takeaways

1. Passing judgment means persistently pushing someone to your truth without considering if they're ready to receive it.
2. Jesus wasn't pushy but knew his audience, balancing truth with tears depending on what each person needed.
3. Matthew 7:6 isn't about avoiding certain people, but about being mindful of how we share truth with others who may not be ready to receive it.
4. Before addressing others' issues, we must first confront ourselves and remove the 'plank' from our own eye.
5. We should balance truth with grace, be patient with God's pace in others' lives, be personal in our approach, and ensure we're safe rather than critical people.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for modeling perfect discernment in how You interacted with people. Forgive us for the times we've been pushy with our truth rather than sensitive to others' needs. Help us to pull the planks from our own eyes before attempting to help others. Give us wisdom to know when to speak truth and when to simply be present with our tears and compassion. May we be people who balance truth and grace in all our relationships, patiently trusting Your work in others' lives rather than forcing our timeline. Transform us into safe people who reflect Your character in all our interactions. In Your name we pray, amen.