

Not Your Gavel  
Matthew 7:1 – 6  
The Laurel Center  
May 20, 2016

**Main Idea:** We cannot judge others because of imperfect perspective.

**Introduction**

We make judgment calls every day. In fact everything that we do is based on our ability to judge a situation and choose the best options for dealing with each situation. One of the things that we have become accustomed to is judging other people, not just situations. But judging people brings its own set of challenges and consequences. Jesus calls us to not judge other people for several reasons.

**Matthew 7:1–2**

**1** “Judge not, that you be not judged. **2** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

- I.** Don't judge others.
  - A You open yourself to judgment.
  - B You are judged same way.

**Matthew 7:3-5**

**3** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- II.** Don't be a hypocrite.
  - A You think others' flaws are bigger.
  - B You miss your own flaws.

**Matthew 7:6**

**6** “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

- III.** Don't misuse discernment.
  - A You misunderstand character.
  - B You misunderstand worth.

## **Conclusion**

Jesus teaches us the importance of reserving punitive judgment on other people. When we judge others we open ourselves up to the same harsh judgments we use on others. When we judge others we become hypocrites who recognize flaws in others but don't see the flaws in ourselves. Finally, when we judge others we misuse discernment and judge them with punishment rather than just an opinion. Judgment should be reserved for God alone because he has perfect perspective and can punish more completely than us. Judging others causes problems for us in our relationships with others and with ourselves. Judge another's comes with far too much consequence and is not worth it. Let us obey Jesus and not judge others!