

**Sunday, 30 September 2007**  
**Matthew 7:1-5**

**Matthew 7:1-5** Judge not, that you may not be judged. For with whatever judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with whatever measure you measure out, it shall be measured to you again. And why do you look on the splinter that is in your brother's eye, but do not consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how will you say to your brother, Let me pull the splinter out of your eye; and, behold, a beam is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First cast the beam out of your own eye, and then you shall see clearly to cast the splinter out of your brother's eye.

### **Standing in Judgement.**

I found myself sitting back and looking at the things going on in our Churches today. I looked at the fights, and topics that are threatening to rip the church in two. In every weekend newspapers we can most likely find an article somewhere that is talking about some or the other danger to the church, and some threat to church unity. Going to local churches and listening to the discussions of the day between members, we find that the church is most likely the one place where you could go to catch up with the latest gossip of the past week. Pity that the gossip is never about how good God was to someone, or about how wonderfully God blessed someone. No, we are only looking for juicy parts of information about the negative things going on, and how some people should not even dare to show their faces in church, for they don't belong there. We find it hard to associate us with others, for they don't fit into our picture of a church-going believer. Thus, they should go, and find somewhere else to go to for spiritual upliftment. But is this correct?

We found in scripture, Luke 5:32-33 that the Pharisees looked at Jesus, and asked why would Jesus spend His time eating with tax-collectors, and sinners? Jesus replied: "Those who are sound do not need a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners." In these two sentences is more truth, and sometimes condemnation to the church than we might what to know. The doors of our churches should be wide open, and an invite should go out to our cities that "All who are weary is welcome, all who live in sin, and is in need of Christ should please come, for our Lord is looking to do a miracle in your life. But we are telling another story. We are saying that murderers and thieves, prostitutes and gay, child-molesters and drunks, people of other cultures and nationalities, people of a different political view or even someone I don't like will not be welcome in our church. We close the doors on a great amount of people in need of Christ. We judge, and decide that they are not worthy of receiving Christ's redemption and grace, for they are simply to "BAD". Now, from scripture, we condemn ourselves, for in the second verse of our scripture in Matthew we read that we will be judged with the same measure we judged others.

Jesus came to save us all. Jesus came looking for the sinners, and the prostitutes and He freed them from their pain, and bondages, but we, the church of Christ, supposed to do His work on earth, we close the door on such people. We tell them that they first need to turn their lives around, and conform to our standards, and then we will consider allowing them to come into our places of worship. Are we then not called to go out and find these people, and bring them into the House of our Lord, in order for them to meet our Lord, and thus get saved? My prayer: "Lord, show us your heart, and help to be your hands and your feet, bringing the Gospel to all who are in need. Make me an instrument of your Love and Peace to those who desperately need you" May we go and do likewise.

\* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. [david@davidniebuhr.com](mailto:david@davidniebuhr.com)

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