

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Week Eleven— Who is the Judge?****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*The Sermon on the Mount is full of teachings Jesus gave about what the Kingdom of God is like and how we can live in the reality of his good kingdom here and now. What we believe in our heart will always, at some point, come out in our actions. In this passage Jesus is reminding us that we ALL need Him. We are all, through the power of His Spirit, being changed back into His image. But never will we attain that perfection until we are united with Him. Often along this journey we start to become Gods righteous “helpers” and actually cause great harm to others. We like to criticize or point out areas of fault in others while failing to see the blaring issues in our own hearts. May we be sensitive to our own sin and come along side others, in humility, instead of thinking we can be the one that fixes someone else.*

- **Big Idea: Only God is truly perfect and merciful, therefore He alone gets to be the judge of our good and bad.**

**Starter**• **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they’ve seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.

- **Imagine:** Leaders, before class, take a baseball cap and duct tape a broom stick on the end so that it is sticking out in front. It needs to be longer than arms length for the activity to work. Ask for a volunteer and have them put on the hat

and facing forward, attempt to write “This is the best way to write.” on the white board. If there is time, allow others to attempt it.

- **Ask:** Is it easy to write with a huge stick in front of you?

## Sing Together

### Story — from Matthew 7:1-6

Read Matthew 7:1-6 aloud together.

We are back in the Sermon on the Mount. The passage, in the book of Matthew, that Jesus is giving his followers a glimpse into what His kingdom looks like. We remember from past weeks that Jesus is NOT telling us that we must try harder or do more, in order to become a part of His kingdom. Rather He is pointing us back to the start of the sermon where He describes what kind of people are blessed by God and that we need a NEW HEART given by Jesus through the power of His Spirit. We have to remember this is a small section of a long talk, not an independent lesson.

This part of the sermon starts with a command. What is the command? “Judge not.” Who can tell me what it means to “judge” someone? (allow time for answers). To judge is to form an opinion or conclusion about something or someone. It is pointing out what someone else is doing wrong. The JUDGE is saying, “I know what is good and bad, and I am going to point it out.” Now, what happened in the garden of eden when Eve and Adam decided to define good and bad apart from Gods direction? Not good. As humans, we are limited in our understanding and perspective. We often can see what other people are doing that bugs us but we are blinded to what is wrong with us. So we try to fix someone else, but we have this huge stick in our eye that is causing damage!! Really we should be asking God to help fix us. What would it look like if we were more concerned about what is going on inside of us than what is going on in someone else. Instead of screaming, “MOM Jessica just yelled at me!” say “GOD what was I doing that I can learn from here?”

What is the second part of that command? What does it say is the reason we shouldn’t judge? “or you too, will be judged. For in the same manner you judge others, you will be judged.” Think back to the last time you pointed out what someone was doing wrong. Maybe it was your sister kicking a soccer ball, maybe it was your brother teasing you, maybe it was your mom saying the wrong word for something. Now, stop and think, have you ever done the same thing you were pointing out? Have you ever kicked a ball wrong? Missed the shot? Teased a sibling or friend? Said the wrong word? The answer is ABSOLUTELY yes. We all make mistakes every day!! And what if you had someone, (maybe you do!) constantly pointing it out. How does it make you feel?

This is where the beatitudes come back in, I wonder if God calls the “know-it-all”, the “pointer out of weaknesses” Lets read Matthew 5:7. Ok so what is Mercy?? Mercy is simply having compassion or forgiveness toward someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm. Our God, the creator of the universe, is a MERCIFUL God. He has every right to punish us, YET when we REPENT, HE FORGIVES US!! Only God

gets to define good and bad, only God gets to be the judge. We are in the season of lent. If you are a person that likes to point out what others are doing wrong, I would encourage you to repent, to tell God that you are getting it wrong, and ask for forgiveness. Then ask God for a heart that is merciful and kind towards those around you!

This week, when you find yourself pointing out the weaknesses, faults, or shortcomings in someone else. Try to stop your self. Repent. (Ask God for forgiveness). Remember “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown MERCY!” And extend Gods kindness and mercy to those around you.

**Dialogue Questions:** *[you may use some or all]*

- Can you think of a time you were quick to point out what someone else was doing wrong?
- Have you ever pointed out someone else’s bad behavior in order to make your bad behavior seem better?
- Can you think of a time that you were quick to ignore a sin in your own life but couldn’t overlook it in someone else?
- Do you want to be judged by someone like that is critical, harsh, unforgiving? Or someone that is kind, forgiving and quick to help?
- Do you need to repent today from a critical heart?
- How can you show mercy towards those around you?

**Breakout Time**

**Pray:**

God, we worship you because you are a God of mercy and grace. You are a king that loves to extend forgiveness when we come to you asking. We thank you for this time of lent where we can remind ourselves that you desire us to repent and turn back to you. Forgive us of our pride and give us hearts of mercy that are slow to point out the weakness and faults of others, but quick to speak life and kindness. Help us to see how much mercy you have shown on us, and fill us with your Spirit to act in the same way. Only in you Jesus, can our hearts be changed and our actions reflect You. Amen

**Craft:**

- There are two coloring sheets attached

**BLESS Activity**

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm.

You have been blessed by God through Jesus! His mercy has forgiven your sins when you least deserved it. This week how can you show Gods blessing to others. Instead of criticizing or pointing out the faults in others, how can you extend Gods mercy and kindness?

# The Beatitudes



Blessed are  
# the Merciful  
for they will  
be # shown  
Mercy #

BLESSED ARE

THE MERCIFUL

FOR THEY SHALL

OBTAIN

MERCY