**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | When Yardsticks Become Boomerangs |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 7:1-6 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1705 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Matthew 7:1-6
      1. So far, in the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord has been talking about our relationship to God and our relationship to things.
         1. Now, He begins to talk about our relationship to other people.
      2. He speaks of one of the most treacherous things in human nature.
   2. It is our human nature to judge other people.
      1. We want to measure and adjudicate them guilty.
      2. Then, in our hearts and minds, condemn them.
   3. We all have our measuring rods.
      1. We have yardsticks by which we measure and judge other people.
   4. The Lord says that that yardstick will become a boomerang.
      1. The very yardstick that we use to judge someone else with is what we will be judged with.
      2. It will come back to us in a deadly way.
      3. The judgment of yours is the very judgment that you will be judged with later on.
   5. In today’s message, we will look at the following things:
      1. We are to apply wise discrimination.
      2. We are to avoid wicked condemnation.
2. we are to apply wise discrimination (matthew 7:1-6)
   1. So often, people get confused because if they try to discriminate, evaluate, or judicate any matter, there is always someone else who will say, “Judge not.”
   2. Matthew 7:1
      1. The word that is translated “judge” in this verse has a number of meanings:
         1. It might mean to separate.
         2. It might mean to choose.
         3. It might mean to select.
         4. It might mean to determine.
         5. It might mean to evaluate.
         6. It might mean to condemn.
            1. We have to see the word in its context to determine its meaning.
   3. The Lord is not telling us that we are not to make evaluations and discriminations.
      1. In Matthew 7:1-6, He tells us three things to look out for:
         1. Logs
         2. Dogs
         3. Hogs
      2. To know what a log, a hog, and a dog are, we have to make an evaluation and a judgment.
      3. The Lord is not saying that we cannot make discriminatory evaluations.
   4. Parents need to teach their children how to make discriminatory evaluations, such as the following:
      1. How to measure the good and the bad.
      2. How to see what is right and choose what is right.
      3. How to see what is wrong and refuse what is wrong.
   5. All judgment is not forbidden.
      1. John 7:24
      2. 1 Corinthians 2:15
   6. A spiritual person knows how to evaluate, discriminate, and choose what is right and refuse what is wrong.
   7. There are some who think it is wrong if we don’t say that other religions are just as good as our religion.
      1. But the Bible says that we are not to believe every spirit but to test, try, and judge the spirits to see whether they are of God.
         1. 1 John 4:1
      2. We are to beware of false prophets.
         1. Matthew 7:15-16
         2. Jesus said that we had better watch out.
      3. Anyone with his eyes wide open needs to make discernment.
   8. It is wise to make discerning discrimination.
      1. We do this when we go to the polls and vote.
         1. We have to make a judgment of whom we will vote for.
      2. We must examine our words.
      3. We must examine our actions.
      4. We must examine situations by the Word of God.
   9. There are certain things that are just plain wrong; the Bible says so.
      1. Adultery is wrong.
         1. Exodus 20:14
         2. Galatians 5:19
      2. Fornication is wrong.
         1. 1 Corinthians 6:18
         2. Galatians 5:19
      3. Sodomy is wrong.
         1. Galatians 5:19
      4. Lying is wrong.
         1. Proverbs 6:16-17
      5. Stealing is wrong.
         1. Exodus 20:15
      6. Pride is wrong.
         1. Proverbs 8:13
         2. Proverbs 16:18
      7. Hatred is wrong.
         1. Leviticus 19:17
         2. Galatians 5:19-20
      8. Envy is wrong.
         1. Galatians 5:19-21
      9. This is not our judgment; this is God’s Word.
         1. We don’t have to judge; God already has.
   10. We live in a day that hates moral absolutes and theological absolutes.
       1. When society is confronted with absolutes, there is always someone who will say that we are judging.
          1. To call wrong what God calls wrong is neither judging nor unloving.
             1. Leviticus 19:17

If we don’t point out sin where sin needs to be pointed out, then we hate our brother or sister.

* + - * 1. It is not unloving to call sin, sin.
    1. We have a generation of young people who are being pulled down into sin, and nobody has the moral courage to say to them that it is wrong because God says so.
       1. If we love them, then we will tell them.
  1. When Jesus says, “Judge not,” He is not talking about the following:
     1. Evaluation and discrimination between right and wrong.
     2. Holding up Bible standards.
        1. Matthew 5:18
     3. Law courts where we have civil and criminal cases.
        1. Leviticus 19
        2. The law courts are ordained by Almighty God.
           1. Romans 13

1. we are to avoid wicked condemnation (matthew 7:1-2)
   1. Matthew 7:1-2
      1. Your yardstick will become a boomerang.
      2. Here the Lord is talking about unmerciful and self-righteous condemnation of another human being.
   2. Luke 6:36-37
      1. This is a parallel passage to the above Scripture in Matthew.
      2. The Lord makes it very clear what He is talking about.
         1. He is talking about an unloving, unmerciful, and a condemning attitude toward another person.
      3. God is the only one who has the right to pass this kind of judgment.
         1. John 5:22
            1. The same Jesus Christ who wants to be your savior will one day be your judge.
         2. All judgment to condemn belongs to Him.
   3. If we try to condemn another human being, then we are trying to usurp God’s authority.
      1. God has not appointed us to be the prosecuting attorney.
   4. The devil himself is the accuser.
      1. When we condemn another human being, we are acting just like the devil.
   5. Romans 8:33-34
      1. Jesus Christ is the only one big enough, wise enough, strong enough, good enough, loving enough, and all-knowing enough to redeem or to condemn.
         1. We don’t have the power to redeem anyone.
         2. We don’t have the power to condemn anyone.
   6. Why do we judge other people?
      1. We judge other people because of our iniquity.
         1. Matthew 7:3
            1. Here was a man with a sawlog in his eye looking for sawdust in someone else’s eye.
            2. The Lord was talking to hypocrites.

Matthew 7:5

* + - 1. It is the hypocritical that are hypercritical.
      2. To see a speck in someone’s eye, we have to inspect them very carefully.
         1. We have to make an extra effort to find it.
         2. Wouldn’t it be ludicrous for someone with a two-by-four in his eye to be looking for a speck in someone else’s eye?
         3. Every church has its own speck hunters.

They specialize in examining other people.

* + - * 1. We always see what we are looking for.

If we are trying to find something to criticize, then we will find it.

If we come to find God, then we will find Him, too.

* + - 1. The hypocrite sees in others what is in himself.
         1. What we generally see when we judge others is a reflection of what is in our own hearts.
      2. Romans 2:1-3
         1. In Romans 1, the Apostle Paul talks about the sins of the flesh.
         2. In Romans 2, he talks about the religious man and the sins of the spirit.

Many people are glad to judge the thief, the prostitute, the murderer, and the drug dealer because they themselves wouldn’t do any of those things.

But their hearts are headquarters for hatred, pride, and self-righteousness.

Yet, they judge other people.

* + - 1. Jesus Christ had far more to say to the Pharisees (who were full of self-righteous pride) about their sin than he had to say to the harlot, the thief, and the down-and-out.
      2. One of the great dangers today is that people are egomaniacs strutting to Hell thinking that they are too good to be condemned, and they judge other people.
         1. They are full of lust, ambition, and pride.
         2. They don’t commit adultery or steal, but God sees the wickedness that flows out of their hearts.

The sins of the flesh can be easily hidden in the heart, but God sees it.

* + - 1. The Gospel of Luke tells the story of a Pharisee and a publican who went to the temple to pray.
         1. Luke 18:9-14
         2. The Pharisee stood and prayed, thanking God that he was not like other men.
         3. The publican, who was a tax collector and an outcast of society, wouldn’t even lift his eyes to Heaven.

He asked God to be merciful to him, a sinner.

In the Greek language, it says “the sinner”.

He saw himself as the worst sinner of all.

* + - * 1. Jesus said that the publican went home justified, and the Pharisee just went home.
      1. We are so full of self-righteousness.
         1. Romans 2
    1. We judge other people because of our insecurity.
       1. Envy digs the mud that jealousy throws at success.
       2. We want to judge other people by our standards.
          1. If we can get them to look like us, act like us, and do like us, then it makes us feel better.

We want everyone else to be just like us.

* + 1. We judge other people because of our ignorance.
       1. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5
          1. The Apostle Paul said that he didn’t even know enough to judge himself, so how could someone else judge him?

He was on the inside looking out.

They were on the outside looking in.

* + - * 1. Our ignorance causes us to judge other people.
      1. None of us is wise enough to judge another person.
      2. We don’t have all of the facts, even when we are certain that we do.
      3. There is one good enough, one wise enough, and one loving enough to judge us.
         1. The Bible says, “Shall not the judge of all Heaven and Earth do right?”

Genesis 18:25

* + - * 1. Romans 14:4
    1. We judge other people because of our insensitivity.
       1. John 3:17
       2. Many times, we are quick to judge and condemn those whom God wants to save.
          1. Maybe we do know all of the facts, and they do deserve to be eternally lost; but who are we to tell someone to go to Hell?
          2. If we know Jesus Christ, then our hearts should be yearning for them to go to Heaven.
       3. When someone tells another individual to go to Hell, then that person is probably headed there, too.
          1. Matthew 7:2

That yardstick will become a boomerang that will come right back to you.

* + - 1. Our Lord is full of compassion.
      2. We are so insensitive that we judge.
      3. When Jesus Christ saw Zacchaeus, a tax gatherer and a thief, Jesus did not condemn him.
         1. Jesus loved him.
         2. Luke 19:1-10

1. CONCLUSION
   1. You must apply wise discrimination and avoid wicked condemnation.
      1. You need to know the difference between logs, hogs, dogs, and wolves in sheep’s clothing.
   2. God has given you standards.
      1. God teaches you that you are to choose what is right and refuse what is wrong.
      2. Your heart is to be filled with mercy, compassion, and forgiveness for those who need it.
   3. James 2:13
      1. When you stand before God, you need mercy.
         1. If you judge others, then you will not have any mercy.
   4. You should want to see every man, woman, boy, and girl as God sees them.
      1. God loves them all.
         1. John 3:16
            1. God is a God of love.
            2. God does not rejoice in judgment.
      2. People look at others and say that they are unworthy.
         1. They see them as unfit and fit only to be discarded.
   5. But God doesn’t love you for what you are; God loves you for what you can be.
      1. God doesn’t change you so that He can love you.
         1. He loves you so that He can change you.
      2. God sees a saint in you today.
      3. Just put yourself in His hands.
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31