

JESUS' WORD TO "CANCEL CULTURE"

MATTHEW 7:1-5 | ERIC SIMPSON | November 7, 2021

Matthew 7:1-5

1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Luke 6:37

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned."

judge = krinó (kree'-no) = to evaluate, to separate, criticize, categorize

Bad krino

- the kind of judgment that leads to condemnation, banishing others
- separating people into categories of "good and bad", "orthodox and heretic"
- look at what someone has said/done and make some kind of judgment about who they are as a person, their worth/value
- most, if not all, arguing that takes place on social media is bad krino
- the banishment of others by categorizing and condemning them

Good krino

- separation of things into wise/unwise, true/false, helpful/not helpful
- to provide an evaluation
- take the judgment you are using and apply it to yourself first
- before you move to confront what you are observing in another person, first examine this in your own heart
- discernment

We're called to exercise discernment but not condemnation.

We're called to separate things into wise/unwise, true/false, helpful/not helpful...but the move Jesus is outlawing is that move from "I really disagree with what you said" to "you're an idiot."

"Whenever you are in a critical temper, it is impossible to enter into communion with God. Criticism makes you hard and vindictive and cruel, and leaves you with the flattering unction that you are a superior person. It is impossible to develop the characteristics of a saint and maintain a critical attitude." - Oswald Chambers

How? How does this practically work its way out in our lives?

- Recognize what affects your ability to see clearly. (v. 3)
- Understand we can't do this on our own. (v. 4)
- Start with self. (v. 5)

"Unless your sins loom large to you, unless you see your issues as greater than other people's issues, you're not going to be able to help them with the stuff that's lodged in their soul." – Tim Keller

The more aware you are of your own pride, selfishness and pettiness, the better positioned you are to help another person w/the splinters they can't remove on their own.

Culturally we're living in a time of "love, love no truth" or "truth, truth, no love."

-- clamming up or blowing up

"The enemy always sends errors in pairs so when you turn from one you fall headlong into the other." – C.S. Lewis

Jesus calls us to this place of speaking the truth in love—dealing with the speck in your brother's eye with a gentleness, humility and graciousness that comes from understanding the 2x4 sins lodged in your own soul.