

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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Matthew 7:15-29
June 14, 2020

Judge with Jesus' authoritative word to avoid deadly deceptions.

- People love to quote from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.
- The Beatitudes, *city on a hill*, *love your enemies*, ...*birds of the air*, the Lord's Prayer, the Golden Rule: *Do for others whatever you want people to do for you*. This sermon is 3 chapters of gems.
- Apart from the Lord's Prayer and Golden rule, what's commonly quoted?
 - ◆ Mt. 7:1 - *Do not judge...* Few can quote the rest of the verse.
 - ◆ ¹ ***Stop judging, so that you will not be judged.*** ² ***For with whatever standard you judge, you will be judged, and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.*** EHV
 - ◆ Jesus **isn't** saying, *Don't evaluate or critique*. But, watch your standard!
 - ◆ ¹⁵ *Watch out for false prophets.* ¹⁶ *By their fruit you will recognize them.*
 - ◆ Critique with love to save yourself and others from deadly deceptions.

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- ❖ It's a matter of life and death - standing safe vs. utter destruction
 - Imagine the shock: *I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.*
 - ◆ Dying secure in the idea that *I belong to Jesus*, only to find out...
 - ◆ Jesus offers these plain words now to avoid eternal disaster.
 - ◆ Jesus wants us to be confident of our salvation for **the right reason**.
 - Critique carefully to **avoid being deceived**.
 - ◆ False preachers don't advertise: *I'm a false prophet*.
 - ◆ They claim to speak of Jesus - Test their teachings: rotten fruit!
 - ◆ **Don't use your standards** to critique: *nice, sincere, kind, so much good*
 - That's the sheep's clothing disguise covering up the antichrist evil.
 - Test their teaching and living **by all of Jesus' words** for fruits of faith.
 - ²⁸ ***When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,*** ²⁹ ***because he taught them as one who had authority...*** The hallmark of God's Christ.
 - Jesus is quoted like he's an authority, but not treated as **the** authority.
 - Faith marvels & recognizes Jesus is the **final** authority, the standard
 - Jesus' standard is the final judgment. Listen now!
 - **Hear and do** - avoid the deadly deceptive extremes
 - *Pure teaching*, but loveless, arrogant - justify: *not saved by works*
 - The only teaching you need: *Jesus is the only Savior & the Bible is God's Holy Word*. After that, all that counts is Christian living.
 - Both: like building your house half on bedrock, half on sand = fall
 - ◆ Exposes non-Christian religions using Jesus & Jehovah's name
 - ◆ Exposes *Christian* churches that have abandoned Jesus' word.

- Critique to **avoid self-deception.**
 - ◆ Picking a preacher by **your standards** is self-deception.
 - ◆ It's commonly thought: *I can be a Christian without going to church.*
 - Notice the standard: *What I think.* Failing to ask Jesus.
 - ²¹ *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.* ²² *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, ...'* ²³ *Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'*
 - I often think of these words - first, to apply to myself: hear & do
 - Even though I warn catechumens about this, so many promise to faithfully follow Jesus, then quickly neglect worship and Communion.
 - Why? Self-deception. *I know about Jesus my Savior. I'm good.*
 - If Jesus is not your Lord, how can Jesus save you from yourself?
 - Jesus is my Lord = I submit to Jesus' authoritative word in all things
 - Freedom is **not** me choosing what I want or think is right.
 - Freedom is life: Jesus rescuing me from sin's deadly deceptions
 - ◆ Submitting to Jesus' word is conforming your heart, will, and mind to every word of Jesus - yes, **law and gospel.**
 - We easily get submitting to law - doing and not doing what it says.
 - Submitting to the gospel is saying, *Yes! Thank you. I acknowledge as true and reliable. I build confidently on your promises. Live it in!*
- ❖ Since this is a matter of life and death, it's critical to share with others.
 - Equip yourself to help those who quote: ***Do not judge...***
 - ◆ Whether Christian or not
 - ◆ Invite them to read the rest of the verse. ***Don't judge by your standard.***
 - ◆ Invite them to note the same Jesus said, ***Watch out for false prophets.***
 - ◆ Jesus wants us to critique correctly, by the standard of his word.
 - Don't trust your faith, convictions, or deeds. **Trust Jesus the Savior.**
 - ◆ He paid for our sins to give us new life through his words.
 - ◆ His word reveals who belongs to him and who doesn't.
 - ◆ Saving faith says, *Amen* to Jesus word. It lives on it and in it.
 - ◆ Don't trust your opinions and standards.
 - ◆ Trust Jesus' promise that those who listen to him have eternal life.

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Come, let's listen to Jesus together to be saved by his word. Amen.