

## Week 7: Approaching the Throne

Read Matthew 7:1-6.

<b>Our Intentions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the job of a judge?</li><li>• How do we see ourselves acting as judges in our lives?</li><li>• What do verses 3-5 have to do with judgment? What is Jesus getting at?</li></ul>
<b>God's Idea</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If God doesn't want us to judge, what does he want us to do?</li><li>• Read Luke 10:27.</li><li>• Read Galatians 5:13-15. What is God's heart for His people?</li><li>• Read Galatians 6:1-5. What is God calling us to do?</li></ul>
<b>Social Media's Influence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are you quick to praise on social media? Why?</li><li>• What are you critical of on other people's social media platforms? Why do those things bother you?</li><li>• How do you find those things connected to your own heart and social media usage?</li></ul>
<b>Kingdom Intersection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Psalm 9:7, Psalm 45:6, and Psalm 47:8. What do these verses tell us about God's character?</li><li>• Read Romans 6:23. What are the implications of our sin?</li><li>• What does it mean that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus"?</li><li>• Read Hebrews 4:14-16.</li><li>• What does it mean that Jesus is our high priest?</li><li>• In verse 15... because was born fully man (and fully God), he took on the weakness of the flesh and endured temptation without sin. Think about Jesus in the wilderness. He was tempted with power, popularity and possessions. He knows what it feels like to encounter hard stuff, but he didn't sin!</li><li>• In his death on the cross, he was a perfect sacrifice. He satisfied the payment for the debt and depths of our sin. In his resurrection, he conquered sin and death so that we no longer live under the bondage of the flesh. We don't need to be the judge, because we have a perfect judge.</li><li>• Read Ephesians 2:8-9.</li><li>• Romans 14:10-13 says, "You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister." We must operate out of the gift of grace that God has poured out over our lives. No one deserves to be saved (Romans 3:23). It is only out of God's great love that he has chosen us to live as co-laborers rather than enemies of the gospel.</li></ul>

## Implications for Us

- Read Romans 14:10-13. How do you combat the patterns of passing judgment? (addressing our own insecurities, knowing someone else's story, not assuming the motives of others, unrealistic expectations, thinking and hoping the best of/for others)
- In what areas of life are you tough on yourself? How can you extend grace to yourself in those places?
- What plank in your own eye do you need surrender to the Lord?

**Heart of the Matter:** *God is the only one that sits on the throne. We have to be willing to take ourselves off the throne of our own kingdom and set ourselves at the feet of the true King. Jesus is the only way of salvation and true freedom. Only by examining our own hearts in humility will we be able to love others well.*