

## A “Critical” Setting for Prayer Matthew 7:1-6

*Do not judge lest you  
be judged.*

“Jesus instructions with regard  
to judging others  
is very simply put:  
He says, **Don’t!**”  
(Oswald Chambers)

There are two extremes  
to be avoided:

- 1) Jesus is not being  
anti-court or anti-law
- 2) Jesus is not forbidding  
any “judging” at all  
cf. Matthew 18:15ff

What Jesus is saying  
is  
that we are not to be  
judgmental  
or censorious

“The average Christian is  
the most piercingly critical  
individual known.” (OC)

Censorious: (A. B. Bruce)  
“A Pharisaic vice, that of exalting  
ourselves by disparaging others,  
a very cheap way of attaining  
moral superiority.”

“[A term that] does not mean  
to assess people critically,  
but to judge them harshly.”  
(John R. Stott)

“...a fault finder, one who is  
negative and destructive towards other  
people and enjoys actively seeking  
out their faults.” (JRS)

Watch your standard of judgment!  
vs. 2

“The effect of criticism is the dividing up of  
the strengths of the one being criticized.”  
(OC)

Leave room for...  
GRACE!

Cf. Galatians 6:1

**B**RETHREN, even if a man is caught in any trespass,  
you who are spiritual,  
restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness;  
*each one* looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

“Jesus says that as His disciples  
you should ***cultivate***  
a temperament that is never critical.”  
(OC)

Watch your method of judgment!  
vs. 3, 4

Watch Jesus' tag for you!  
vs. 5

“Every wrong thing that I see  
in you, God finds in me.  
Every time I judge, I condemn myself.”  
(OC, see Romans 2)

Watch out for wild animals!  
vs. 6

“Holy...dogs?”

Pearly...pigs?

Throwing food, pearls and dust...  
Those who tread on the gospel message...