

‘Do You Have a ‘Yes’ Face?’ Matt. 7:1-6

Introduction: Watch out! There are people out there who want to take away your freedom in Christ. They kill freedom, spontaneity and creativity. They kill joy and productivity. They kill with their words and with their looks. There is hardly a church or Christian organization where such danger does not lurk. Surprisingly, their intolerance is tolerated. Their judgmental spirits remain unjudged.

For too long, many Christians have lived like frightened deer in a restrictive thicket of negative regulations. One sad result of this is that it is turning many away from the Christian faith; which is not to be characterized by some frowning, grim-faced kill joy but by offering a winsome, joyfully contagious and sensible proclamation of hope through faith in the awesome Son of God.

I. Living by grace

Grace that is truly amazing will change not only our hearts but also our faces. Some Christians are long overdue for a face change. To have a ‘yes’ face that draws other people in; not a ‘no’ face that repels others. Do you have a ‘yes’ face? Kids can spot a ‘yes’ face. Instead of _____, Jesus set people free; to soar, to truly be who God created them to be.

II. Stop criticizing.

A. Once again Jesus is here drawing a contrast between the self-centered, legalistic perspective of the religious leaders and His perspective, the true perspective of the Kingdom of God.

Their critical evaluation of others was based on appearances, on external things, superficial things.

But Jesus said their perspective was totally _____ to God’s perspective.

B. Many assume this passage says that people should never criticize or judge or evaluate anything these days. That is a wrong understanding of this passage. The whole sermon on the mount was given to help us discern the difference between true religion and false religion. A few lines later, Jesus says to beware of false prophets. How will we discern who is a false prophet without using wise judgment?

C. What Jesus is forbidding here is the self-righteous, hasty, unmerciful and prejudiced condemnations of others based on human standards. He then gives us 3 reasons why such judgment is wrong.

1. This self-righteous, hasty judgment is wrong because it comes from a wrong view of God. People were making hasty judgments that actually only God was qualified to make.

2. This critical spirit is wrong because it has a wrong view of others. When we set ourselves up as judge over others, we imply that we are qualified to judge; that we know all the facts, circumstances, motives.

3. This self-righteous, hasty criticism is wrong because it reveals we have a wrong view of ourselves. 7:3-5. Often, the sin of the critic is much greater than the sin of the person he is criticizing.

III. Concerning pearls and swine.

A. The last verse, 6, is a hard saying of Jesus. It’s like a thunderbolt that can shatter the soft and sentimental opinion that in the name of humility, we are never to oppose wrong doers. To be able to obey verse 6, we must be able to _____ who are the dogs and the swine!

B. Dogs and swine represent those who because of their great ungodliness refuse to have anything to do with the holy and precious things of God. Many times, even Jesus had to walk away from some people.

Here are 4 things that will happen if we choose not to live with a self-righteous, critical, judgmental attitude, but with grace.

1. We will gain a greater appreciation for all of God’s gifts. The gift of salvation, laughter, music...
2. We will spend less time being critical of someone else’s choices.
3. We will become more loving and much less critical and negative.
4. You will take a giant step forward in your Christian maturity. The truth really will set you free!