

# QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

## Discussion Questions **LEADER GUIDE**

Week of 2/11/24

**Text:** Matthew 7:1-6

**Icebreaker:** On a scale of 1-10, how judgmental is the person sitting next to you? ☺ Why do we often react strongly when we feel judged by others?

1. Read Matthew 7:1-6. What stands out to you from these verses or from the sermon you heard this week? Why?

Verse 6 may not receive much (or any) attention this week, depending on which campus you attend. Some see in it a connection with verses 1-5 so that Jesus is warning against judging those who refuse to listen. The reference to “dogs” and “pigs” is likely a reference to those outside the believing community. In that case, Jesus’s instruction in verse 6 could be similar to what Paul writes in 1 Cor 5:9-13 (see question 5 below).

2. Verse 1 is sometimes quoted in isolation from the rest of the passage. What do we miss if we don’t also read verses 2-6?

A common interpretation of verse 1 is that all judging is bad so we shouldn’t ever engage in it. It might be helpful to think for a minute about whether that would even be possible! Isn’t the notion that “judging is bad” a judgment? Verses 2-5 help explain that Jesus is targeting a specific type of judgment—that of the “hypocrites.”

*Application:* What comes to your mind when you think of “judging” another? How does your idea of it compare with the type of judging Jesus seems to be addressing?

3. Jesus uses an absurd comparison in verses 3-4 to describe what it’s like for a “hypocrite” (see v. 5) to judge. In your own words, what is Jesus saying here?

The “hypocrite” is so focused on another’s failure that he cannot even notice his own massive shortcoming. The “log” or beam indicates an obstructed view of reality so that his assessment of things is seriously distorted.

*Application:* Why do you think we tend to be good at noticing the “speck” in another’s eye but not the “log” in our own? Can you think of an example where this has happened?

4. Verse 5 is the remedy to the problem the hypocrite faces. What difference does this verse make in how we understand the passage?

We could read this passage as a prohibition against all judgment until v. 5 when Jesus offers the solution—first take the log out of your own eye! With this done, then we can have a clear view to offer a clear (and humble) judgment. We might say that humility is an antidote to hypocrisy.

*Application:* What do you think it means for a person to “first take the log out” of their own eye? How should this kind of action impact the way one “brother” judges another?

The repetition of “brother” in this passage may indicate that our judgments are meant for those inside the community of believers rather than those who do not profess faith in Jesus.

5. Is it ok to judge, then? Look up Galatians 6:1 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. What do these verses reinforce about the kind of judgment that pleases God?

*Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted  
to loving God and loving others.*

*Application:* Take time to pray that we would show humility and gentleness with each other even when we find a need to point out areas of concern with each other. May we do so with love and plank-free eyes!