

MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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DON'T JUDGE (ME)

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Matthew 7:1-5
 "Judge not, that you be not judged." (verse 1)

This verse is not an absolute prohibition against judging. Just below it, verse 5 clearly talks about taking the "speck out of our brother's eye." In order to remove a speck, one has to determine (judge) that there is a speck. What Jesus is addressing is a harmful manner of judging others.

Jesus illustrated His meaning by contrasting someone with a log sticking out of his eye trying to remove a speck of dust from somebody else's eye. It goes without saying that one should take care of their own log before trying to assist someone else. We find it easy to set up stringent standards for others, while being extremely lenient with ourselves. We forget that at a minimum, God

holds us to the highest standards we set for others. After all, we have no excuse because by the mere act of judging someone else, we are declaring that we know what is right in that area. If we know right, we are accountable to do right.

So, before we even think about correcting (perceived) wrong in somebody else, we must judge ourselves first. We must take an honest and humble look at our own lives to see if we are walking in integrity – especially in the area we intend to address in someone else. We must also remember that we are not striving to live consistent lives in order to judge others. But as we are living consistent lives out of love for the Lord, we will be moved to help others who are struggling.

Once we have dealt with ourselves, we can now reach out to others to help – not condemn them. Frequently when we judge we are trying to make others look bad, or at least make ourselves look better than them. Jesus would have us focus on being a help to others. We should not just point out the speck – we should help to remove it.

Don't walk around condemning people. If you happen to notice a fault in someone, reach out to help after you have ensured that you've dealt with yourself first.

God bless you,

Pastor James

AM I A HYPOCRITE?

But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

~ 1 Corinthians 11:31 ESV

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

March 23

Join us via Zoom video
 Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM

April 18

Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

March 28

In-person service and livestream.
 Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.

ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM

March 25 (in-person) & **March 26** (online)
 Growth Groups end.

email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log on details.

YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM

March 26

Youth meetings are in-person at church.

VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM

March 28

Kidzone is available every Sunday.
 Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **EASTER ACTIVITIES:**
Good Friday Service, April 2nd @ 7 pm (online & in-person.)
Resurrection (Easter) Sunday Service, April 4th @ 11 am (online & in-person.)
- **Next Ladies Meeting this Saturday, March 27th @ 10:30 am** via Zoom.
- Our first **Quarterly Prayer Session** will be this Sunday March 28th at 6 pm.
- Get involved in our **Random Acts of Kindness Outreach** this month. Find details on our website.
- **Growth Groups conclude this week.** Meetings are in-person Thursdays 7 pm at church and Fridays online at 7 pm.
- **Explore Mountain Stream classes** for folks interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream continue this Sunday at 10 am on the lower level.
- The **2021 Church Directory** will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website, click the **ABOUT** button at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Through the generosity of your brothers and sisters, we are able to provide a **no contact mini pantry** in the trailer at the rear of the church building. Please help yourself to whatever you need at whatever time is convenient to you.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!