



August 17, 2025

Kevin Sneed

Matthew 7:1-6

## Introduction

This week's message examines the challenging topic of judgmentalism through the lens of Jesus' encounter with the woman caught in adultery and His teaching in Matthew 7. Kevin Sneed explores the tension between Jesus' command "Do not judge" and the clear call for Christians to discern right from wrong. The message distinguishes between condemnation (which belongs to God alone) and correction (which flows from love and seeks restoration). Through examining our own hearts and motivations, we learn to approach others with humility rather than harsh judgment, recognizing that we all stand in need of grace.

**Key Texts:** Matthew 7:1-6; John 8:1-11; 1 Samuel 16:7

## Icebreaker

Think of a time when someone corrected you with love versus a time when someone criticized you harshly. What was the difference in how it felt and how you responded?

## Discussion Questions

1. **Read John 8:1-11 together as a group.** Kevin asked: "Which character do you most relate to in this story?" Be honest—are you more often the woman caught in sin, the accusers, or do you see yourself differently? What does your answer reveal about your self-awareness?
2. **Read Matthew 7:1-6 together.** Jesus says "Do not judge" but then seems to call for judgment in the same passage. How do you understand this apparent contradiction? What's the difference between discernment and condemnation?

3. Kevin defined judgment as "when we call out a perceived wrong in another without loving them" and correction as drawing out wrong "saturated in love" with a heart to restore. Can you think of examples of each from your own life—either giving or receiving? What made the difference?
4. **Read Matthew 7:3-5 again.** Kevin emphasized "knowing your role"—recognizing who you are and who Jesus is. How does the "plank in your own eye" affect your ability to help others with their "specks"? Share an example where recognizing your own sin changed how you approached someone else's.
5. Kevin shared about learning he couldn't control his daughters and instead needed to be "a faithful, non-anxious presence." Where in your life do you find yourself trying to control others rather than trusting the Spirit to work? How might this apply to family, friendships, or workplace relationships?
6. Jesus had "tremendous respect for human agency"—He invited people to choose without coercing them. How can we share truth and live out our convictions while still respecting others' freedom to choose? What does this look like practically in our relationships with non-Christians?

## Key Takeaways

- We are called to discern right and wrong, but never to pronounce final condemnation
- The difference between judgment and correction is the presence of love and a heart for restoration
- We must examine the "plank" in our own eye before addressing the "speck" in another's
- Jesus respected human agency and invited rather than coerced
- We are called to be faithful, non-anxious presences who trust the Spirit to work in others
- Confession humbles our hearts and reminds us we all stand in need of grace

## Notes