

b) Read the following verses in search of some biblical guidelines for exercising judgment.

- **Proverbs 3:21-22**
- **Romans 12:3**
- **James 2:12-13**

4. The verses below call for evaluating a person's behavior and exercising discernment. What can you glean from them?

- **Matthew 7:15-16**
- **1 Corinthians 5:11**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:14-15**
- **Titus 3:10-11**

5. a) What are the two questions Jesus poses in the parable about the two eyes in **Matthew 7:3-4**? What do you think the speck of sawdust and the plank represent? What is the significance of their effect on the eye and ability to see accurately?

b) What are the underlying premises of Jesus' questions (**V3-4**)? Why is it important to use our impulse to judge another person as an opportunity to first examine ourselves? Also read **Romans 2:1-3**.

6. Based on **Matthew 7:5**, Jesus does not ask us to ignore the speck in our brother or sister's eye. Contrast hypocrisy with the mindset of someone in whom God has produced humility and who honestly cares about another person's restoration, also addressed in **Galatians 6:1-2**.

7. a) Jesus illustrates how the evaluation of others and prudence is important in certain situations in **Matthew 7:6**. Who do you think these animals represent and what might be the intent of offering them sacred things and pearls?

b) What are your thoughts about why giving what is sacred - such as Jesus' teaching or the gospel - to those unable to receive it is unwise (**V6**)? What is the warning Jesus gives?

8. What is one truth from Jesus' teaching in **V1-6** that is relevant to something you face today? Explain why.

9. **JESUS SAID: EXAMINE YOURSELF BEFORE YOU JUDGE**

Living in the kingdom of heaven, we are to "show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God." **1 Peter 2:17**. Therefore, before you speak, it is always important to soberly examine yourself. Take this time to ask whether a desire to point out the flaws in a brother or sister is something that honors the words of Jesus. Are you being respectful or self-righteous? Is the intent of your words to restore or to condemn? Ask the Lord for wisdom and sound judgment as you live into the kingdom of heaven.

MEMORY VERSE: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." **Matthew 7:1-2**

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST