

Matthew 7:1-5

December 30, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - An American missionary was waiting at a train station in India. While he was there they announced that his train would be delayed for an hour. He was thirsty, but he knew he couldn't leave his bags unattended in the train station. He looked outside the door of the train station and saw a poorly dressed street boy. He motioned the boy inside and told him, "Take this 5 rupee coin and go down the street and buy me some tea and when you get back I'll give you something." The boy snatched the coin and ran off. 15 minutes later, the man realized that he'd been had. The street boy had taken his money and run off. He thought: *I knew it! All these street boys are thieves! What was I thinking giving money to him? Oh well, live and learn.* 45 minutes later, as he started to board the train, he felt a tug on his shirt. The street boy was there with his tea. He asked him why it had taken him so long to come back with his tea. The boy explained that he'd lost the coin and had to wash all the store owners' utensils to pay for the cup of tea.

John 7:24 - Jesus said, "Don't judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

1. Don't judge hypercritically.

Kent Hughes: There's a universe of difference between being discerningly critical and hypercritical. A discerning spirit is constructive. A hypercritical spirit is destructive. The person with a destructive, overcritical spirit revels in criticism for its own sake. He expects to find fault... One of the most prominent characteristics of this critical, fault-finding person is that he predictably focuses on things that are of little importance and treats them as matters of vital importance.

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2. Don't judge hypocritically.

3. Judge yourself first.

4. Judge gently.

Gal. 6:1 - If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him *gently*.

5. Judge slowly.

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Proverbs 18:13 - Answering *before* listening is shameful and foolish.

6. Judge lovingly.

Ephesians 4:15 - Speak the truth in love.

7. Judge dependently.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
