

Many have tried to make a number of applications for believers from Matthew 7:1-6.

V1 references: don't judge others, lest you be judged. V2, if you judge others, we will be judged as you have judged them. Romans 14:4, "who are you to judge another man's servant," and Eph. 4:31, "let...wrath be put away from you," are passages that tell believers that God is the final judge of the soul of man, and we aren't to determine that someone can't be saved by God. That is self-righteousness that Jesus is addressing here in Matt. 7.

V3 and 4, is used to say that we should be aware of our sin before taking on the sin of another. Gal. 6:1 is used to give the heart of one who corrects another in gentleness and humility. Rom. 12:9, is used to command believers are not hypocritical towards other believers. 2 Cor. 6:6 and 1 Pet. 1:22 define a love that is unhypocritical or genuine and sincere.

>>These applications for Matt. 7:1-4 are taken from other passages, not Matt. 7.

>>These applications are difficult to apply to believers. V1 & 2, the judgement here is final, the phrase, "you will be judged," is used. V3, speaks of blindness that one can see another's sin, but not the obvious sin in their lives. V4, tries to characterize small sins and large sins, but interpreted properly, a speck is a blinding sin, and a log is a massive, blinding sin. Verse 6 has to be in context of verse 1-5, because verse 7 begins a new thought. Chapter 6:34 finishes up a thought about trusting the Lord and seeking Him and His kingdom first, before all other things.

6 Warnings to the Self-Righteous: Why Matt. 7:1-6 refers to the self-righteous:

1. **Shift in Tone:** there is great comfort and promised help in chapter 6:25-34. Chapter 7 starts with judgement.
2. **Increase in Alarm:** V1, begins with "judge not." V7-11, perfect love of the Father to give what is needed. V12, is a good moral to follow. V13-14, there is a narrow way leading to life and a broad way leading to destruction. V15-20 warning for false teachers and vines that do not bear fruit are cut off and burned. V21-23 speaks of false believers who were never children of God. V24-27 ends the chapter with a warning to build upon Christ and His word or perish.
3. **Type of Judgement:** this type of judgement refers to a final type that is without exception. But Matt. 18:15-20, is discerning the discipline needed to be applied to a believer. 1 Cor. 5:1-13 speaks of delivering one to Satan and purging the leaven (sins) from our lives. 1 Pet. 4:17 speaks of judgement beginning with God's people. All of these actions require judgement from believers. The passage in Matt. 7, can't mean judging isn't allowed by believers.
 - a. This passage in Matt. 7 is referring to the self-righteous who pass judgement on others they feel are worthy of hell. The Pharisees passed judgement on a blind man that Jesus healed in John 9:13-34. The Pharisees excommunicated him as one who was born in sin.
 - b. The judgement in Matt. 7 is a final judgement as referenced in V27, 23, 19, 13, & 2.
4. **Blindness of Spirit:** 2 Cor. 4:4, Satan has blinded the eyes of unbelievers. God is the one who opens the eyes. Mk. 4:33-34, Jesus speaks in parables so that His followers would understand but not the Jewish leaders who tried to kill Jesus based upon every word they believed to be blasphemous. New Testament believers aren't characterized by blindness. Matt. 7:3, the log is the self-righteous sin that an unbeliever can't see. It is a ruinous sin so large you can't see because the unbeliever is blinded by it.

5. **The Label of Hypocrite:** V5, Jesus uses the word hypocrite which is a direct address of the hypocrites in the crowd He was speaking to. This term is used by Jesus 17x in the New Testament. Matt. 6:2, 5, 16, 15:7-8, 22:18, 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29, 24:51, Mk. 7:6, Luke 12:56, 13:14-15, and in the same account in Matt. 7:5 & Luke 6:42. All these passages refer to unbelievers or a false believer. The term hypocrite is used in the OT (NKJV translates "hypocrite.") but translated in the ESV as "godless," in Job 34:30 and 36:13.
5. **Assessment of Hypocrites:** V6, dogs and swine are terms used here. These are negative terms referring to wild dogs and swine. The contrast here is taking what is precious and holy and throwing it to dogs and pigs that will turn on you rather than see you bringing them something that is gracious or generous.
>>Jesus is addressing a mixed crowd. Hypocrites and dogs are those that don't inherit the kingdom of God, Rev. 22:15, Phil. 3:2. Those in verse 6 are viewed as not worthy of the time spent to help them in their state of blindness and hypocrisy.
>>What is the church giving warning to in Colossians 1:28? Warning those in the church who are unbelievers to believe the Gospel and believe in Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

This passage has been used by many to try to provide a moral and proper attitude of believers to outsiders and other believers. However, other Scripture gives us instruction on how to deal with sinning brothers and unruly church members. When a proper application is made to unbelievers and the self-righteous, the entire passage in Matt. 7 opens us to the heart of unbelievers. Jesus contrasts believers and unbelievers. What are the responses of the believer and unbelievers in the following passages in Matt. 7; V1-6, 7-12, 13-14, 15-20, 21-23, and 24-27?

Verse 28-29 gives a reaction from the crowd. They are astonished at Jesus' teachings during His sermon on the mountain. How has Christ redefined the New Covenant vs. the Old Covenant in the minds of believers (a changed heart vs. outward works)? What does a believer in Christ have that the Pharisees and Scribes are without? Humility is a hallmark of a believer. How is humility demonstrated in the lives of believers?

Paul's conversion is an example of an unbeliever that had a log so large that he was murdering Christians who contradicted Judaism. Paul's eyes were opened by the Lord Jesus to reveal that He was persecuting and opposing God. How does a believer respond to the blindness being removed from their eyes so they can see the Gospel? How does Peter describe the believer who has come to know and understand God's Word in 2 Peter 1:16-21?