

Friday, February 26

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 7

Today's Devotional Message is by Scott Bowles

"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. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye. How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Matthew 7:1-5

So have you ever talked to someone about an area in their life that needs a little help and fixing up, only to have them turn around and tell you that the bible says, NOT TO JUDGE? Ugh! They got me. Sure enough it does. What do I do now?

We'll the Bible doesn't actually say that, exactly. Even though Matthew 7 verse 1 says, "Do not judge others and you will not be judged," we have a problem because in 1 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 12, Paul tells us that it is our responsibility to judge those inside the church. Is this a contradiction in God's word? No. What God is saying is that we cannot come to someone and help them deal with say, pornography when we are dealing with adultery. We can't counsel someone on their drug addiction if we are addicted to alcohol. We need to get our own sin taken care of and then we can lovingly approach our brother or sister and help them deal with that area in their life.

This is often difficult in our current world of political correctness, relativism and "live and let live" attitudes. Of course we are to never judge someone's salvation by what they do or don't do for we cannot see their heart. Only God is able to see into someone's soul and to see their true motives.

Let's use Jesus as our example on how to live and love others. Let's live our lives so that they are holy and pleasing to God and then we can approach others in the church with wise and honest counsel for it would be foolish and ungodly to let those in the church continue on in their sin and not help them grow in their faith and relationship with God.