

“Mercy Came a Runnin’ (3): Solid Gold”

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☐ Matthew 7:1-5

- ◆ What you _____ in others is invariably true about _____ .
- ◆ vv 1, 2 *The Message*: “Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That _____ spirit has a way of boomeranging.”
- ◆ The good news for us is that Jesus is not challenging critical _____ .
- ◆ The bad news for us is that he is condemning critical _____ .
- ◆ The Greek word for “hypocrite”—*hupokrites*—is the word for the _____ on a Greek stage—one who pretends to be what he is _____ —she wears a _____ and fools her audience.
- ◆ Danger for academic communities: When you develop the _____ of critiquing, you become more susceptible to the _____ of criticizing.
 - The English word “critic-ize” is based on the word “critic” which is from the Greek word *krites* which is the word for “a judge.”
 - But James 4:12 declares that “there is only _____ Lawgiver and Judge—so who are you to judge your neighbor?”
- ◆ Romans 2:1 NIV: “You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the _____ things.”
- ◆ Oswald Chambers: “Every wrong thing that I see in you, God locates in me. Every time I judge, I condemn _____ . Stop having a measuring rod for other people. *There is always one fact more in every man’s case about which we know nothing.* . . . I have never met a man I could despair of after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God.” “If you have been shrewd in finding out the defects in others, remember that will be exactly the measure given to you. *Life serves back in the coin you pay.*” (*My Utmost for His Highest* 169, 174, emphasis supplied)
- ◆ “The atmosphere of selfish and narrow criticism stifles the noble and generous emotions, and causes men to become self-centered judges and petty spies.” “The sin that leads to the most unhappy results is the cold, critical, unforgiving spirit that characterizes Pharisaism. . . . He who is guilty of wrong is the first to suspect wrong. By condemning another he is

trying to conceal or excuse the evil of his own heart.” “According to the figure that our Saviour uses, he who indulges a censorious spirit is *guilty of _____ sin than is the one he accuses*, for he not only commits the same sin, but adds to it conceit and censoriousness.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* 123, 126, 125, emphasis supplied)

□ Matthew 7:12

- ◆ All of God’s teachings can be reduced to this shining Golden Rule: “Do to _____ what you would have them do to _____ .”
- ◆ What the Divine Carpenter did when he was nailed to his own tree
- ◆ His example—the shortest and simplest antidote to the spirit of criticism anywhere on earth today: _____ instead of criticize—_____ instead of judge.
- ◆ “Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of _____ This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* 137)

Go for the Gold with Mercy!

criticize, you, critical, thinking, acting, actor, not, mask, skill, sin, one, same, myself, *greater*, others, you, intercede, pray, mercy