

Judging the Teaching of Jesus
John 7:14-24
May 25, 2025

The Marvel of Jesus’ Teaching: Learning Without a Degree v. 15

Wisdom without Seminary

Preaching with Power

The Origin of Jesus’ Teaching: The One Who Sent Me v. 16

Taught of God - the best qualification.

Why can’t we trust the thoughts about God of the philosophers?

The Test of Jesus’ Teaching: Whose Will? Whose Glory? v. 17-18

Do you seek His will? His glory?

Judging Jesus’ Teaching v. 19-24

Not by outward appearance.

Will you judge by the Law of Moses?

Judge by right judgment.

Meditation

Judging With Mercy

Hypocrisy is never the friend of mercy. When we spend more time noticing others’ sins than our own, we struggle to wear the “spirit of gentleness” that Paul speaks of (Galatians 6:1). Numb to our own desperate need for mercy, our judgments burn without soothing, cuts without healing.

“With the measure you use it will be measured to you,” Jesus warns (Matthew 7:2). But in the grip of wrong judgment, we often use one measure for others, and another for ourselves. A spouse’s sharp words are plain *cruelty*, full stop. But our own sharp words are warranted by the circumstances — or at least excused by tiredness, stress, hunger, or provocation. We have a way of swelling others’ specks into logs, and of shrinking our own logs into specks.

John Stott writes, “The command to *judge not* is not a requirement to be blind, but rather a plea to be generous” (*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, 177) — or as the apostle James puts it, to show mercy (James 2:13). But generous, merciful judgment takes energy and time. It requires an eye for complexity, a willingness to give the benefit of the doubt, a self-distrusting posture and a prayerful heart. Far easier to madly swing the gavel.

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