

Matthew 7:1-6 & 15-23

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What is the difference between “the measure you give” in Matthew 7:2 and the law of love as expressed in the Ten Commandments and Jesus’ teaching?

The “measure you give” is the spirit or attitude you manifest and the criteria you use when you judge someone. Rather than judging and condemning others according to our standards and then receiving the judgment of others according to the way we have judged them, we can love others and show them mercy and forgiveness, just as God in Jesus Christ has forgiven all who will believe in Him. If we need to help someone who is living contrary to the law of God, we can pray that our words and actions will reveal the loving concern of God and us for them (not harsh judgmental condemnation) and help them make the changes God expects them to make according to the Bible’s teachings.

2. What did Jesus mean when talking about “the speck” and “the log” in someone’s eye?

Believers need to examine themselves and turn from their sins and obey Jesus rather than disregard doing what Jesus expects of them by focusing on the sins of others and trying to correct others. Believers should not be hypocrites.

3. If you are not supposed to judge, how will you know when or if you can give something holy to someone without being mauled?

Discernment is not harsh critical condemnation or unsympathetic judgment of someone. Discernment involves praying to know the right time and place, if possible, to share the gospel with someone. With some, the Lord will not lead us to share the gospel with them, and by seeing the type of person they are we can understand why we are not to share what is holy with them. They would only do whatever possible to attack and discredit the holy Word of God and the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins among other holy truths.

4. Do we have “false prophets” today? If so, what standard would you use to judge whether someone was a false prophet or not?

Yes. What the Bible clearly teaches compared to what they teach, and whether their motives are obviously selfish and self-centered or not.

5. How can you judge whether a person is a good person or a bad person?

We can look at the way they live and see the results of their actions. A bad person cannot produce good fruit, though for a time it may appear to be good. A good person will produce good fruit by the grace of God through faithful obedience to Jesus Christ. Believers will increasingly manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Only Jesus Christ can make a bad person good or a sinner into a saint.

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