

LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND

3 – Two Ideas That Can Change My Relationships Matthew 7:1-5; 12

June 5, 2016
Pastor Mark Hartman

- I. **TREAT** OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO **TREAT** YOU. (Matthew 7:12)
 - A. *Matthew 7:12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”*
 - B. *Matthew 22:37-40 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as **yourself**.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*
 - C. To love your neighbor as yourself actually means to treat others as you would want them to treat **you**.
 - D. All of this means, no matter what you face, what challenges you encounter, how someone disappoints you, no matter what pride you have to swallow, treat others the way **you** would want to be treated.
- II. GIVE EACH OTHER THE BENEFIT OF THE **DOUBT**. (Matthew 7:1-5)
 - A. *Matthew 7:1-5 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ “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? ⁴ 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? ⁵ 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.”*

- B. One of the greatest mistakes Christians make toward each other and others is a **judgmental** spirit. It has driven so many people away from God.
- C. Jesus is not saying we must live this life without discernment. Jesus is not saying we can never speak into another person's life who is going the wrong direction.
- D. *Matthew 7:5 "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."*
- E. Jesus is actually saying, "Don't judge hypocritically." (**superficially**)
- F. If we are going to assume, why not assume the **positive** instead of the negative about that person?
- G. What God says about my story:
 1. *Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (NLT)*
 2. *Isaiah 54:17 "...no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,' declares the LORD." (NIV)*
 3. *Philippians 4:13 "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. (NLT)*

Every one of these verses is teaching us to "control our story" in light of **God** not our circumstances. It's God's power that determines our future and He can protect the outcome of our lives.

- H. If we would stop judging others' motives and stop allowing negative imaginations to rattle around in our heads and instead begin giving them the benefit of the doubt and thinking positively and lovingly about them...just like we want people to think about us..., it would **change** our relationships. If we would actually hear their story of what and why it would oftentimes change our understanding of what the truth really is.
- I. Consider these statements:
 1. When I am criticizing and condemning just because you are **different**, I am wronging you and wronging God who made you.
 2. When I am gossiping in such a way that I lower someone else's view of you, I am wrongly judging.
 3. When I decide that I know your **motives**, then I am having a hypocritical judgmental spirit.

