

TO GO

1. Describe a time when you felt judged by someone? How did it make you feel? How did it affect your relationship with that person?
2. Read Matthew 7:1. What does Jesus mean here when he says, "Do not judge"? Then, read Ephesians 5:6–10. How do Jesus' instructions coordinate with Paul's? Is there a difference between judging and discerning? If so, what is it?
3. Read Matthew 7:2. What does Jesus warn will happen to those who judge in the way that he means?
4. Read Matthew 7:3–5. What principles for dealing with sin do we glean from these verses? Why is it important to begin with personal sin first? How have those who have been honest about their own sin encouraged you in your own struggle? Can you share an example?
5. Read Matthew 7:6. What does Jesus mean by dogs and swine here? What's his point in the context of judgment? How can we act towards the world in a way that holds true to our convictions and yet doesn't throw pearls to pigs?
6. Ask God to help you grow in mercy towards those who struggle with sin. Ask him to do a work in you first so that you can act redemptively towards those in need as God makes you available.