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## A Serious Warning

*By Taylor Braswell on December 2, 2021*

**READING:** Matthew 7

I want to make something clear: Only God can see a person's heart condition. Only God will judge a person and rightly send them to hell or give them eternal life. Christian, you are not better than anyone else, and it is only by the grace of God that you have salvation through Jesus Christ!

Although the previous statements are true, God does remind us in Matthew 7 that we will be able to recognize people by their fruits. Christians should be able to judge whether or not their own actions and the actions of others line up with God's Word. Many people think the Bible teaches that we are not allowed to judge anyone. People have taken Matthew 7:1 out of context by ignoring Matthew 7:2-5. Judging someone while thinking you are morally superior makes you a hypocrite. A Christian knows how sinful they are and knows how much they need Christ every single day. It is in this humility that we can judge the fruit of someone else's life and point them to the forgiveness found in Christ. Christians hold themselves to the same standard as others, God's standards!

I think Matthew 7:23 is the scariest verse in the Bible. Some people will believe the lie that we are all basically morally good people, and that we just have to try and live the best life we can live. Matthew 7:21-23 makes it very clear that some people will stand before God and boast in things they did during their life, all the while not realizing Christ was enough for them. Some people even know the gospel, but continue to live for themselves, never having a real heart change. People can do all the "good" in the world but fail to realize they are a sinner in need of a savior. Christian, the reason you were put on this earth is to point people to this truth. Experiencing God's forgiveness and life in Christ should motivate us to share the gospel with others!

**PRAYER:** Father, You are a good and righteous judge. Thank You for sending Your son to live the perfect life I could not. Transform me though your Holy Spirit so that my knowledge about You translates into real heart change.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 8

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