

**Sermon on the Mount - Pursuing Your Kingdom Life**  
**Small Group Questions - 29 March, 2015**

“Seeing Clearly...”

-Spend some time connecting and sharing any Kingdom Life stories

-Open with some prayer asking the Spirit of God to guide your conversation and study

-Read today's passage together

*Judging Others*

*Matthew 7 (NIV) “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.*

*6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

What immediately impacts you from this passage?

Describe the difference between the one who comes in grace and humility, (one who wants to bring life) to the one who comes and spews criticism and hypocritical judgement all over you or all over the church?

Discuss the end of verse 2

What is verse 3-5 encouraging us to do?

How do we make sure that we bring life and not hypocritical judgement on each other?

A couple of things...

**1. DEAL with your “own stuff” first. Why? How?**

*Psalm 139:(NIV)*

*23 Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*24 See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Do you have any obvious PLANKS stopping you from seeing clearly?

Pick up the mirror of God's Word and take a good look. See if there is anything! Help each other see clearly!

**2. TEST your motives...** Ask yourself the question! Why do I feel the need to highlight that speck in my brother's eye? Am I genuinely concerned with their Kingdom Life or does having a go at them make me feel better about myself?

**3. What's your level of relationship?** *No relationship no rebuke!* “You don't know me!” I really believe that we actually earn the right to speak into each other's lives through relationship. So be someone who loves deeply.

**4. MAKE sure that your mode of communication comes from a place of humility and love because again I reckon a lot hinges on how we communicate and the spirit in which we deliver the message.**

What am I like when I need to let someone know about the vegemite on their face? Am I aggressive? Am I arrogant? Am I always right? Do I hide behind emails and txt messages? Has to be FACE to face! Try to honestly look at what you are like in this situation. What is it in me that is hindering me from bringing LIFE?

*- If we are to stamp out HYPOCRITICAL JUDGEMENT in our lives and in our church, if we are to grow in our Kingdom Lives we need to move from hypocrisy to humility.*

You might want to see if there is anyone in your group who would like repent and confess anything and then spend some time praying for each other.

Next spend some time discussing and studying V6

6 *“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

What is your take on this verse?

*We need to Use WISDOM and DISCERNMENT as we proclaim the Gospel of the KINGDOM*

How do we get wise?

**Some concluding questions...**

*-How has this message connected with your Kingdom Life, your everyday life, your roles (mother, father etc)?*

*-Am I bringing life which is the KINGDOM of GOD to my workplace, school, uni, community, church? Or do I bring hypocritical judgement?*

*-Am I seeing clearly? Am I dealing with my stuff? My PLANKS AND SPECKS...*

*-Am I asking God for wisdom so that I can discern who I should share the valuable pearls of the KINGDOM with?*

I wonder what the SP has said to you and I wonder how it will affect or change the way you live out your KINGDOM LIFE... Decide to make a change; decide to be the difference today....

*Close in prayer*