



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 7:1-5

“The Confusion on Judging”

Mt. 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

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Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

❖ **The Lord Jesus is teaching His disciples that He expects a higher standard of spirituality to be lived by them than how the Pharisees live.**

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a. What the Critic Does, 7:1

Mt. 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

- ❖ This principle is tempered by truth found in the Law:

Lev. 19:15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: **but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.**

16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I *am* the LORD.

17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD.

❖ Jesus taught His disciples not to be judgmental or censorious of other people, in view of the high standards He was clarifying.

Rom. 14:4 **Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?** to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

10 But **why dost thou judge thy brother?** or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

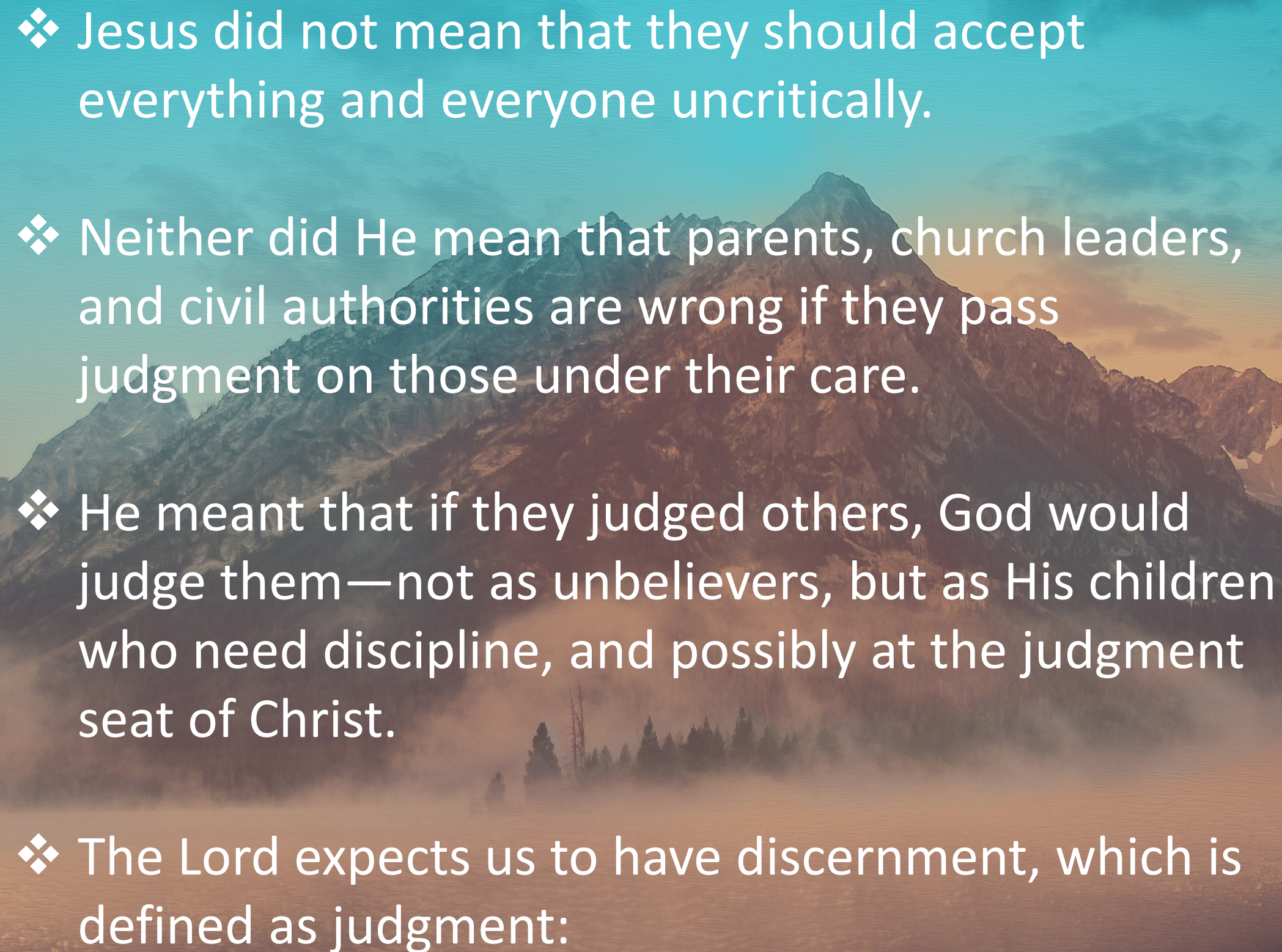
11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

13 **Let us not therefore judge one another any more:** but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

Jas. 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and **judgeth his brother**, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: **who art thou that judgest another?**

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- ❖ Jesus did not mean that they should accept everything and everyone uncritically.
 - ❖ Neither did He mean that parents, church leaders, and civil authorities are wrong if they pass judgment on those under their care.
 - ❖ He meant that if they judged others, God would judge them—not as unbelievers, but as His children who need discipline, and possibly at the judgment seat of Christ.
 - ❖ The Lord expects us to have discernment, which is defined as judgment:

Discernment - the faculty of discerning;
discrimination; **acuteness of judgment** and
understanding. <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/discernment>

Mt. 7:15 **Beware** of false prophets, which come to you in
sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 **Ye shall know** them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes
of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a
corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a
corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down,
and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know** them.

Jn. 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but **judge righteous judgment.**

Eph. 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 **Proving** what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove them.**

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual, restore** such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

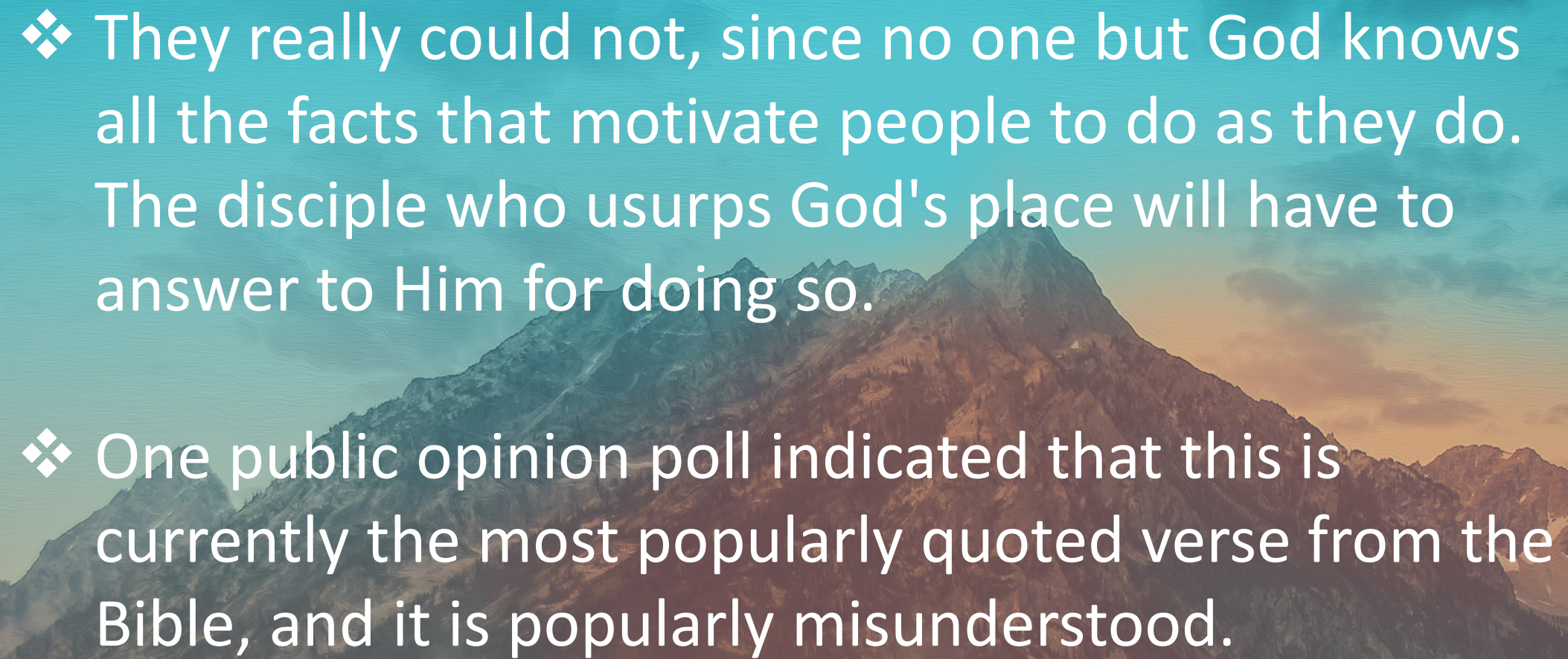


Phil. 3:2 **Beware** of dogs, **beware** of evil workers,
beware of the concision.

1 Cor. 10:15 I speak as to wise men; **judge ye what I say.**

1 Jn. 4:1 Beloved, **believe not every spirit, but try the spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

❖ Jesus meant that His disciples should not do God's job of passing judgment—on His behalf—when He has not authorized them to do so.

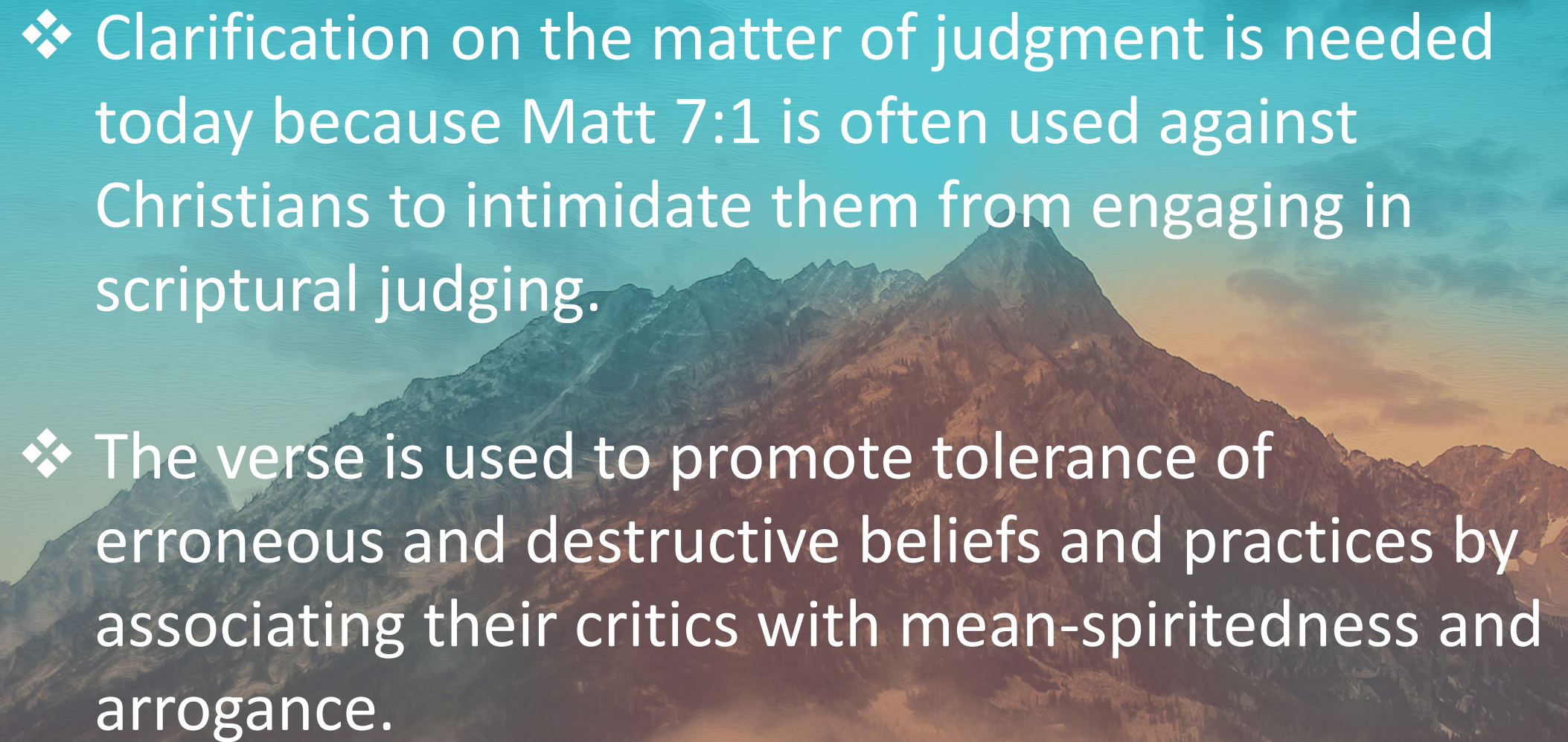
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- ❖ They really could not, since no one but God knows all the facts that motivate people to do as they do. The disciple who usurps God's place will have to answer to Him for doing so.
 - ❖ One public opinion poll indicated that this is currently the most popularly quoted verse from the Bible, and it is popularly misunderstood.

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, some with patches of snow. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, with a line of evergreen trees along the shore. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

"... it is the *habit* of censorious and carping criticism that Jesus is condemning, and not the exercise of the critical faculty, by which men are able and expected on specific occasions to make value-judgments and to choose between different policies and plans of action."

Barclay, William. *The Gospel of Matthew*. 2 vols. The Daily Study Bible series. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 1964. Vol. 1:206.

❖ This verse is not a condemnation of spiritual common-sense.

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- ❖ Clarification on the matter of judgment is needed today because Matt 7:1 is often used against Christians to intimidate them from engaging in scriptural judging.
 - ❖ The verse is used to promote tolerance of erroneous and destructive beliefs and practices by associating their critics with mean-spiritedness and arrogance.

Those who say 'Judge not' are often among the first to judge the Bible for what they say are its 'politically incorrect' affirmations, examples, prescriptions, and prohibitions.

b. What the Critic Deserves, 7:2

Mt. 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

- ❖ The thought here is similar to that in 6:14-15. The person who judges others very critically will experience a similarly rigorous examination from God (cf. 18:23-35, 10,000 talents vs. 100 pence).
- ❖ Such judgment sets the standard by which God judges us, by the way in which we judge others.

Rom. 2:1 Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest**: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; **for thou that judgest doest the same things.**

2 But we are sure that **the judgment of God is according to truth** against them which commit such things.

3 And thinkest thou this, **O man, that judgest** them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

❖ The warning against hypocrisy is also a directive to mind your own business.

1 Thess. 4:11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to **do your own business**, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

1 Pet. 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or **as a busybody in other men's matters.**

❖ The principle is an encouragement to correct your own problems before being critical of someone who has less to work on than you do.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But **he that is spiritual judgeth all things**, yet he himself is judged of no man.

sugkrinó: to combine, compare

Original Word: συγκρίνω

Transliteration: sugkrinó

Definition: to combine, compare

Usage: I join together, combine, compare, interpret, explain.

sygkrínō (from *sýn*, "identified with" and *krínō*, "to judge") – **properly, judge together**, i.e. *closely compare* (discriminate).

sygkrínō ("judging together") is only used three times in the NT: *positively* in 1 Cor 2:13, and twice *negatively* in 2 Cor 10:12.

Positively, *sygkrínō* ("closely compare") means grasping truths *combinatively* as they are "*fitly joined*" into one entity, i.e. where each is understood *in terms of the other* (WP, 1 Cor 2:14).

[*sygkrínō* ("comparative evaluating") results in "*unified* understanding" as elements in a comparison are grasped as similar or dissimilar.]

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4793.htm>