

## Transcript\* - Don't Judge Me! – John Enabnit – 4/27/2025

Good morning. Church. My name is John Enabnit. And I'm one of the pastors here. I'm glad you're with us today. Thanks for showing up. It is, after all, the Sunday after Easter. You know, Easter Sunday is always kind of a great day. You know, everybody puts the dog on. You know, we had special services and great stuff happening.

Lots of baptisms and and now today you've got me, the old guy Mitt. But I, as Kim was as I try to try to try to. Anyway, As as Kim was on the platform a moment ago, I was thinking, you know, between between the two of us, there's over 100 years of ministry experience between Kim, Bristol and myself, which is pretty, pretty amazing.

You know. Notice, notice I didn't say 100 years of wisdom. It's not the same thing. So, we are continuing our, our sermon series called It's Complicated. And, before Easter, we were talking about various, individuals in Scripture, like Jonah and David and others. But now we're going to move into a little different realm of of this.

And now we're going to be looking at some of the teachings in Scripture that kind of, maybe rub us the wrong way sometimes. So we're going to dive into that today. But let me start by saying that, that, that I'm convinced that John 316 is no longer the go to verse for humanity. John 316 is kind of passÃ© anymore, honestly, in some circles.

It's old and there's a new John 316 now. The old John 316 was John 316, which everybody knew. And, you'd see John 316 everywhere. You know, if you go to a sporting event especially, it was televised. Someone would likely have a big sign that said John 316, and pretty much everybody knew what it was.

Even people who don't know Jesus would know. John 316 says, essentially, For God so loved the world. But there's a verse, it's come along that's replace that verse. Nobody knows what the verse where the what the address is. They know what the verse says, or at least they know the principle of the verse, but they don't know the address.

Well, today I'm going to give you the address in the verse. The basically the, the address is Matthew seven one. And and people that know the verse without the address, they basically hold Christians to the principle that's espoused in this verse, even though they don't necessarily hold the principle to themselves. And here's what the verse says Matthew seven one.

Do not judge, or you two will be judged. Let's let's say that together. Do not judge or you two will be judge. Shorthand is don't judge me. Quit judging me. Which is the attitude that a lot of us, even inside the church as well as outside the church, tend to have. Because you see, when you judge people, you're you're not loving them.

And, and we're just trying to establish a baseline of love for people. And as long as you're not accepting people for who they are and what they are, that means you're not loving them. And if you're not loving them, you're judging them. And if you're judging them, it's just not a cool thing. So I'm sure that nobody in the room has a problem with judging anyone.

So let's stand for the benediction. Amen. Or is it possible that some of us may have a little problem with this? For example, let's say that you're driving. Have you ever driven in traffic and, and, and someone cuts right in front of you and you have to slam on the brakes to avoid hitting them, crashing into them.

And your your instinctive thought is my, what a wonderful person that is. I bet they're really important. I bet they're just going to do something really meaningful. Anybody ever thought that? No. Me neither. Most of us are card carrying members of the Jump to Conclusions Club. And if there were frequent flier miles for judging other people, some of us would have enough miles racked up to circle the globe twice.

Right? Have you ever noticed how easy it is to judge other people? It's, it's almost as if they've got a sign that they're carrying around that says gossip, you know, or drama queen or, or maybe crabby all the time. Something like that. Meanwhile, meanwhile, we we like to think we're walking around like Billy Graham wearing a Fitbit.

Amen. But just maybe, just maybe there's some stuff on us. In us that we don't always see. So we're going to dress that today. Open your Bibles if you have them to. Matthew seven. I hope you brought your Bible. I, I know we have words on the screen, but there's just something intrinsically good about actually carrying your Bible with you to church.

I Rick, I really recommend that you do that. Okay. So we're going to look at a teaching of Jesus today that's kind of short. It's direct. It could be a little uncomfortable for some of us. And it's kind of funny too. Here we go. Matthew seven verse one. This is part of the sermon on the Mount.

So this is a red letter, word for us today where Jesus said, do not judge or you two will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged. And listen to this church with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 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?

How can you say to your brother, let me take a speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank in your own eye, 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. So Jesus paints a picture so ridiculous that you almost have to laugh.

I didn't hear anybody laugh. You've you've heard this passage probably a million times, but just imagine that you walk into church one Sunday and someone rushes up to you out in a lobby and you say, hey, hey, I noticed you got a little speck in your eye. What's up with that? Let me help you with that. Meanwhile

there, because they've got a two by four sticking out of there, either knocking over chairs all over the place.

I mean, I don't know about you, but if someone's got a log sticking out of their head, I'm not interested in their doing eye surgery on me. Can I get an amen on that hard pass? The point being that we're often blind to our own faults. What we have perfect 20/20 vision as when it comes to the flaws of others, we say things like she is so impatient while we're honking the horn at the car in front of us.

Or he is so full of himself while we check our reflection. Every time we walk past a window. They are so judgmental. Or you sense the irony of that. So Jesus in Matthew seven uses some humor to get the point across, but I think he's trying to wake us up to before we presume to judge other people. Let's check the mirror first.

Check the mirror, in fact, may be a good idea to schedule an appointment with your spiritual optometrist. So is it ever okay to judge others? It's kind of what I'm gathering here. I mean, but Jesus did. I mean, he called sin. Sin, and he didn't. He didn't spare any words for the religious leaders of his day. He called them you bunch of snakes, you whitened mausoleums.

In other words, they were pretty on the outside, dead on the inside. So the companion passage to, Matthew seven would have to be over in Romans chapter 14. So flip over to that real quickly. I don't mean literally flip. I mean turning the pages in your Bible over to Romans 14, verse ten. I'll give you a second to catch up to me again.

The words are on the screen. Paul now is going to be talking about the same thing. So he picks up on this theme when he says in verse ten, you then why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God. Judgment seat. It is written as surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me, every tongue will acknowledge God.

So then each of us say, each of us, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. I am here today to get you ready for that accounting. Okay, that's my purpose. In this message, Paul says, don't judge, but come on, we make judgments every day. I mean, you couldn't survive it if you didn't make judgments.

Like, what time do you need to leave your house in order to get to church on time? That's a judgment call. Some of you might want to try that over some time. Okay. Is this outfit I'm wearing? Is it okay for church? That's a judgment call. We judged the music almost every Sunday, don't we? And my guess is you're judging this sermon right now.

I've often thought we should hold up. You know, give everybody coming in one of those Olympic cards, you know, like, with numbers on it. You can judge the sermon as it's as it's going along. But this isn't about making judgments. We got to do that. It's about passing judgment on people. And that's a big difference, because when I pass judgment, I'm looking beyond what you've said or what you've done, because I've got

it all figured out why you do that, or why you don't do that, or why you say that, or why you don't say that, is if I can discern your in your inner motives church, half the time I don't even know why

I do what I do. How in the world can I know why you do what you do? The difference between judging and passing judgment. Let's let's say, for example, that I say to you that Chevy pickups are better than Ford pickups. That's a judgment call, right? That's an opinion. But if I say anyone who drives a Ford pickup is an idiot, that's a judgment, right?

That's passing judgment on somebody. And you know what? The better we know people, the more likely we are to pass judgment on them. And God gives us some reasons in the Bible why that's not our prerogative, why we're not allowed to pass judgment on people. And I'll give you a couple of them. Number one, you don't have the authority.

If you're taking notes, write that down. You don't have the authority to do that. Notice what verse ten says in Romans 14. Paul writes, why do you judge your brother or sister? Look around the room for just a moment. Just look around. Everybody in this room who's a follower of Christ is your spiritual brother or sister. This is your church family.

These are the people that you have a spiritual relationship with. But when you judge them, you're acting superior to them. You're not acting like their brother. You're not acting like their sister. You're setting yourself up in a position of superiority. And we don't have that authority. Paul sprinkles this kind of teachings throughout his writings over in Philippians two.

He says, make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Going on to verse three don't be selfish. Don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too. And see that's the relationship that we have with others in the church.

This isn't the only place where Paul mentions it. Now back to Romans 14, where in verse 13 he says, therefore, therefore let's stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. So when I pass judgment on you, I'm putting a spiritual impediment in your pathway to Christ, and you're doing the same to anybody else that you're judging unfairly, so you don't have the authority.

And secondly, you don't have the purity. You and I, we do not have the purity. Now, I got to tell you that I've noticed a tendency in my own life that I'm not particularly proud of. But I'm going to be real with you today, and that is that I tend to be unrealistic about myself. Whenever there's a problem at home or here at church, I gotta tell you, I'm pretty much innocent.

Amen. I'm so pure. I'm so righteous. I'm so holy. It couldn't possibly be my fault. It's your fault, you know. You're the one who messed up. You're the one who blew it. The common word for this is the word Jesus

used back in Matthew seven. The word is hypocrisy, which means that you're inconsistent. Romans chapter two, verse one.

The apostle writes, there you have no excuse. You who pass judgment on someone else. For at whatever point you judge another, you're condemning yourself because you who pass judgment do the same things. How is it possible to excuse the sins in my life? When we dress it up, we spiritualize our own sins. You see, I don't gossip. I'm just sharing a prayer concern with you.

Okay? That's all I'm doing. I'm not critical of others. I'm just discerning. Right? I'm not negative. I'm just realistic. We conveniently forget our own sin. In John eight, there's this incident where this woman is found in the very act of adultery by the religious leaders of the day, the Pharisees and they drag her before Jesus. I don't I don't know why they didn't bring the man, but they just brought the woman.

So they bring her before Jesus. And they want to they want her to be stoned, not recreationally. You understand? She want they want her to be stoned. Literally. They want to humiliate her. But more than that, they want to trap Jesus. They want to get him. They want to get him to cross his principles. And Jesus says, okay, guys, if you are so pure, if you don't sin anymore, let him who has no sin take up the rock and be the first one to throw it at her.

So these judgmental, arrogant religious leaders of the day had the same problem that you and I tend to have, which is that it's incredibly easy to see the sins of others all at the same time. Overlooking my sin. You know, you ever notice that that it's so easy to pick other people apart when you just look at her?

Can you believe that guy? That we are so quick to judge the faults of others? Jesus says, don't judge or you will be judged. Quit passing judgment on other people. First of all, you don't have the authority. Only God has that. And secondly, you don't have the purity. You're not righteous enough. So let's go back to Matthew seven, this time from a different translation.

And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? Now, at this point in the sermon on the Mount, Jesus has two thirds of the way through his message. How many minutes it was, I don't know, but he uses some humor, right? He wants to get a point across, but he's going to use humor in every preacher knows it.

Every now and then you got to throw some humor in to kind of wake the people up. I can promise you that even though you didn't chuckle a whole lot, I know that back in Jesus days, he's on that hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee that the people would have laughed or at least chuckled. You know? And so it's my it's time for me to interject a little humor, a totally unrelated story.

Okay? Has nothing to do with the message other than the fact that I'm concerned that some of you are falling asleep.

I got this mechanic that I've gone to for, gosh, over 20 years. He's a great mechanic, and I went there recently and I, I kind of surprised him, I guess, a little bit because I walked into his shop and he was drinking a can of brake fluid. I couldn't believe what I was seeing, drinking a can of brake fluid in.

And I said, what in the world are you doing? And he said, I gotta tell you what, it tastes great. And I said, really? He said, I said, I think that's probably not good for you. You know, it's got to have some really bad stuff in it. It's brake fluid after all. And he said, well, I, I started, started doing this two, three months ago.

Now I have at least one can of brake fluid every day. And I said, brother, you've got to quit this out. You've got to stop. You got to, you know, you can't do it anymore. You got in. He said, I can stop anytime I want.

Thousand, 1000 to.

You know, the 930 crowd was a lot sharper than you guys. I, I got to tell you that.

A survey was taken of people's opinions about us, about Christians. What do non-church members what do non-Christians think about you and me? So they gave this is a Pew Research study. Not not like a pew, but that's the name of the company. The Pew Research. They gave him a list of just one word adjectives to describe Christians, and the number one word at the top that was used to describe Christians was not loving or forgiving or humble or gracious.

You already know what I'm going to say. The number one word that people use to describe us Christians was the Christians that I know are judgmental. What in the world has happened to us? How did we come to represent Christ so poorly? If you call yourself a follower of Christ, is it not your life's mission to become like Jesus?

And when you and I exercise judgmental ism on society and our culture, we are doing the exact opposite of that. What is John 3:17 say everybody knows? John 3:16. What does John 3:17 say? Says that Jesus didn't come to condemn the world. He came to save the world. And being like Jesus means even though I'm obvious it's obvious that this person is involved in a sinful situation rather than passing judgment on them.

It's my prerogative. It's my point. It's my purpose to point the way to Jesus. Amen. That's what I should be doing. Point the way to Jesus. James 2:13 says, you must show mercy to others or God won't show mercy. Did you hear that? You must show mercy to others, or God won't show mercy to you when he judges you one day, read the last sentence with me.

Mercy triumphs over judgment. I couldn't hear you. Mercy. Try. I'm over judgment. Let's. Let's focus on that. What does that mean? That mercy triumphs over judgment? Well, it means that mercy is love and

action. And it's not a mercy is not a feeling. It's something that you do. You can't just feel mercy. You have to act on mercy.

And this verse says that mercy is the opposite of passing judgment on others. When I'm judging people, I'm not being merciful. But God says that mercy is more powerful than judgment. Mercy trumps judgment. Mercy wins the day over judgment. Because when I'm judging people, I'm looking down on them. But when I'm merciful to people, I'm looking across at them.

Need I remind you, church, that you and I are here today solely because of the mercy of God? Were it not for his mercy, you wouldn't even think about coming to church. You would be so far from God. Do you realize that everything that you have in this world is because of his mercy? Every material possession, the air you breathe, the life that you live.

I mean, you think about what God has done for us. He has taken you out of the miry pit and set your feet on solid ground. Amen. He is. He has brought you from spiritual death to spiritual life. You didn't deserve that. I don't deserve that any more than the person that sins deserves mercy. But they need mercy.

Amen. They need mercy. And you have been the extraordinary recipient, recipient of an amazing mercy that God just pours out. And as a response to that, God's call in my life on our lives is to be merciful to people, even though they may not deserve it. And by the way, when you are merciful, it it comes back to you too.

Proverbs 1117 says, your own soul is nourished. Did you catch that? Your own soul is nourished when you were kind. It is destroyed when you are cruel. So big idea today is you can either go through life as a judge, mental person, or you can go through life as a merciful person. Your call. I mean, you can choose to criticize and complain.

People do that even in church. It's hard to believe. It's hard for me to take sometimes the things people complain about in this church, you can do that. You can make yourself miserable and you can make everybody around you miserable, or you can choose to encourage. You can be merciful. And you know what? When you do that, your life goes better and the people around you want to be around you.

When you're a complainer, when you're judgmental, they don't want to be around you. But when you're merciful, people will flock to you. They love that. Now, practically speaking, there are three ways that God would want us to show mercy. Here's number one forgive people when they mess up. This is the takeaway part of this, okay? And people will mess up.

By the way, how many of you have messed up ever in your life? Can I how many of you kind of messed up sometimes? Big time. Yeah. Second Corinthians two seven says, when people sin, you should forgive and comfort them so they won't give up in despair. You forgive people when they've hurt you, even you know, the normal reaction when someone hurts me is, I want to hurt, hurt them.

I want to get even. Right now it's the normal human reaction to to write them off. You've offended me. You've hurt me. You're out of my life. I want nothing more to do with you. But an agent of mercy forgives them. What? What do we pray in the Lord's Prayer? Forgive us our debts as we forgive our. You're not talking about money.

They're what we're praying is. Lord, I expect that you will forgive me at the same level at which I'm willing to forgive other people. And if you're not willing to be gathered people, how in the world can you expect to stand before God and receive his forgiveness? It doesn't work that way. So who do you need to give another chance to listen?

If someone hurts you and hurts you and hurts you again and again, you got to be discerning about that. Don't be for a fool, right? You. Maybe you need to step away. Maybe need to separate from that person if that's what's going on. But by default, consider yourself an agent of mercy. And judging others again looks down on them, but showing mercy looks across at them.

That's number one. Number two, show respect to people that you disagree with. And for you grammarians in the room I know you never end a sentence, a preposition with I get that. All right. So it is should grammatically say show respect to people with whom you disagree. But I didn't have enough room on the paper, so that's why it looks like that, which has nothing to do with this message.

Show respect. I don't need to tell you. I don't need to tell you how polarized and divided our nation has become. Everybody has an opinion on everything and no thanks to social media. We know everybody's opinion on everything, and you don't have to agree with everybody, but you don't have to be a jerk about it. You're representing Christ after all.

Don't be a jerk first, Peter 217 says, treat everyone you meet how to live with dignity. It's a pretty clear, isn't it? Treat other people. Even though you may disagree with them. Treat them with dignity. Paul says in Ephesians 431, get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of behavior. Instead, say instead read.

Read the rest with me. Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you, so you can be filled with all that stuff, all of that. Or you can be merciful. Number three help someone who's hurting. There are there are a lot of people in life right now, church, that are hurting.

You know, that you're an agent of mercy. And remember this mercy triumphs over judgment. Mercy triumphs over judgment. So? So when you're helping someone, instead of being judgmental toward them, you're being merciful toward them. And Jesus even told a story about this fella that was on his way down to Jericho and got waylaid by robbers and left him for dead at the side of the road, and religious leaders came along and ignored him.



But this despised Samaritan was the guy who helped out. He was the one who showed mercy. Proverbs 327 says, wherever or whenever you possibly can, wherever or whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it, well, how do you good wherever and whenever? Well, you have to look for it. Yeah, you have to set the default of your life is being merciful.

You have to. You have to. If you care, you're going to be aware, though it's call it premeditated mercy. So you wake up tomorrow and let the words that cross your lips as you're praying in the morning. Lord, give me an opportunity to show a Christlike mercy to someone today. And when you pray that kind of prayer, God will just open the doors and and bring people into your life that you can, that you can be merciful to.

Call it premeditated, call it intentional. But that's what it is. Jesus said again, don't judge or you too will be judged. And I don't think, you know, I don't think that you want to stand before God one day, having lived your life with a judgmental spirit. So here's a story for you. True story. Years ago, when our family was young, when our kids were living at home, we were traveling cross-country.

We're going on a road trip. And, our budget being what it was, we say we stayed at Ritz-Carlton hotels. No, that's not true. We did. We did not stay at Ritz-Carlton hotels. We stayed at this particular chain of hotels called super eight hotels. I have no idea who named those hotels, but they were not super. And the reason they called him super eight was because you could expect to see at least eight cockroaches scurrying across the floor of your hotel room.

But that's what our budget could afford. Super eight hotels. And you know how we're spoiled. Because nowadays, almost every hotel motel, you know, in the morning, they'll serve from 6 to 9 or whatever. They'll serve a breakfast, you know, like a hot breakfast. It may not be great food, but at least in it's their. But this is back in the 90s now.

And the super eight hotels and motels, they were not like that. The best you could expect was a pot of coffee and donuts, but not even good donuts. Cake donuts, lousy cake donuts that tasted like sawdust. There was not. It was not good. I don't like cake, I like donuts, I do not like cake donuts. They were. They were as plain as could be, you know?

That's as good as it got. That's. That was. We were living high, baby. Really high. And so we stayed at a variety of super eight hotels that that particular road trip. And then we came to one in Wyoming. And then it was my habit to wake up before the family every day. And, that happened in this particular hotel.

I quietly got dressed and slipped out the hotel door and went down to the lobby. And and I grabbed myself a cup of coffee and looked around for the donuts. And there, there were donuts there. But one family had decided to hog them all. They were, they were. They were about 6 or 7 sitting around this table like a round table like this.

Bigger. And right in the middle was this this plate of donuts that were killer donuts. I mean, these were not your ordinary cake donuts. These were sprinkled and frosted and flavored chocolate and strawberry

and blueberry. And they were amazing donuts. But the family was hogging them all. Like, I could not believe the audacity of that family to to just grab the plate of donuts and assume that they could have them all for themselves.

So I'm I'm sitting over there by myself, looking at them for a moment, and then I walk over there and I didn't say a word to them. I just reached across one of them. I just grabbed a donut from myself and I. I looked at them and went back to my place. I ate that donut and it was really good.

In fact, it was so good I thought, I'm going to have another one. And I went back to their table and they didn't look at me. But I'll tell you what, I gave them the stink eye this time because I was, I thought, I cannot believe how selfish, how selfish you could be to to not think that everybody else would want to donuts too.

So I, I grabbed another donut and I glared at them and they didn't say a word. I went back to my place and I ate that second donut. I would have gone for a third, but I just didn't have any room for any more. So now it's time to go back to the hotel room to wake the rest of the family up.

And as I did so, I was going by the desk clerk and I said, hey, you know what? We've stayed at several Super Eights in the last few weeks, and, and, they've all they've all had, you know, like coffee and lousy donuts. But your donuts here are really, really good. I mean, these these are amazing donuts.

He says, sir, we don't provide donuts here.

I said, yeah, you do that right over there. He said, no, no. The family went out and bought those donuts this morning for themselves. Those those are their donuts. Here's another reason why you shouldn't judge other people, because you don't always have all the information.

Not only do I not do I not have the authority, their purity. But a lot of times we don't have all the information. Of course we should be discerning, you know. Of course we should be discerning. But, church, it's time you you put down your magnifying glass that you use to inspect the lives of others and picked up a mirror and looked in your own life.

You know, I I'd love for a survey to be taken of non-Christians. One day, and the survey would say those Christians that I know, they go to that church over there, they are some of the most loving and gracious people that I've ever run across. They're filled with mercy. You know, Jesus hates sin. He he came because of sin.

He came because of my sin and your sin. Amen. I mean, he came for sinners. He came for us. He came for all sinners. Why would it surprise you when sinners act sinfully? Why should that surprise us? Why should we be so upset when ungodly people act like ungodly people rather than judge them for their sin? How about showing some mercy?

How about pointing the way to Jesus, the one who has covered their sin with his shed blood? Amen. And the and the way we do that is to forgive people when they mess up, to show some respect, even though we may not agree with their lifestyle or what they're doing. And thirdly, to help those who are hurting. And when you and I do that, when you and I exercise mercy like that, we are becoming more and more like Jesus, which is exactly the deal that we signed up for when we became Christians.

Amen. Let's bow our hearts and heads. This is also our benediction. So the Lord and I thank you that you paved the way for mercy you. You've shown us through Jesus what mercy looks like in flesh and blood. How the woman who was found out in John eight, how she was brought before you, and and how Jesus didn't condemn her, but he said, cut it out.

Stop it! How? How we can be merciful like that. Father, is my prayer and help us, Lord, help us to get rid of a judgmental spirit, a critical spirit, a negative, a spirit, and instead be filled with the Spirit of Christ. May we become more and more like him. And now, Lord, would you dismiss us with your blessing as we go from this place?

May we extend mercy to others with whom we come in contact. May people look at us in this coming week, Lord, and see Jesus in us. And I pray this in his precious name. Amen.

---

\* The transcript provided is generated using automated transcription technology. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, there may occasionally be errors or inaccuracies. It is provided for general reference only and may not fully reflect the original content. Please consult the sermon video for the most accurate information. Broadway Christian Church disclaims any responsibility for errors or omissions.