

TREAD LIGHTLY

Questions for Application for the Week of May 19, 2014

Part 3 - Pride or Humility: Use Caution - Matthew 7:1-6

For those of you who have been using this guide in Life Group, let me thank you for participating in this important ministry in our church. As this Life Group season draws to a close, I pray the lessons you have learned and the friendships deepened will continue long beyond this year and that you will join us again next fall.

1. The bible calls us to judge (1 John 4:1) people and situations but Jesus warns against being judgmental (Matthew 7:1-2). How can you tell the difference between thinking critically and having a critical spirit? How does 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and 1 Peter 4:8 shed some light on the answer?

2. In Matthew 7:3-4, Jesus challenges us to avoid identifying and removing "specks" from the eyes of our brothers and sisters when we have a "log" in our own. But if truth is truth, why should it matter whether I have a big log in my eye or not? Why does a log disqualify me from correcting somebody else?

3. Before challenging another, Jesus instructs us to first ensure we are where we need to be in our life (Matthew 7:5). What practical steps can we take to see that this gets done? How can I evaluate whether I am in a position to be calling somebody out for his or her sin or not?

4. If we are not careful, Matthew 7:6 can appear to contradict what comes before it. However, Jesus gave a similar instruction in Mark 6:7-13. How does that passage help us to understand what Jesus is getting at in Matthew 7:6? What "message" do you feel is more pressing for the church today; the warning of Matthew 7:1-5 or the instruction in Matthew 7:6? Why do you feel that way?

5. It is easy to focus another's sin and when we do it is good to remember how God deals with ours. Read Psalm 103:8-14. In that passage, what are some of the characteristics of God's behavior towards us and what steps (if any) do you need to take in order to be more Christ like in your relationships with those you feel are falling short?