

## Judging Others

### Question:

In the "Sermon on the Mount," what did Jesus mean when He said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Mt 7:1; Lk 6:37).

### Our Answer:

The word "judge" in this verse comes from the Greek word "krino" and means to "try," condemn," or punish." The context in this verse implies not taking a judgmental (condemning) attitude toward others. It was not an admonition to be blind, but rather, a plea to be merciful, as the Father is (Lk 6:36).

The point Jesus was making was that by assuming authority to exercise judgment over others, a person places himself in the position of God and is subject to God's judgment for it. God alone is able to discern without error the intent of the heart (see: Ro 14:10; Jas 4:12).