

4. List all the reasons why anger is inappropriate when helping “correct” or restore a close friend who is going in the wrong direction.

5. What are some of the ways you can keep God’s grace toward you and the gravity and reality of your own sins fresh in your heart and mind?

6. How does prayer prepare us for these kinds of conversations?

7. How might you use the “10-yard Conversation” tool in a situation you’re facing now or situations in the future?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Good & Beautiful Life (The Sermon on the Mount) - Part 9

“The Right Way to Help a Close Friend Who’s Headed the Wrong Way”
Matthew 7:1-12

The Right Way to Help a Close Friend Who’s Headed the Wrong Way

1. **Keep your mouth shut, look at your own heart that is so quick to _____, and recognize your own sins that you’re so quick to excuse.**

Matthew 7:1-5

Judging (in this context) = _____

“With this illustration Jesus tells us how idiotic we are, but he does it with warmth and humor.” (Matt Woodley)

When you go to your friend, go as a fellow _____.

2. **Think about how you would want to be _____ if you were in your friend's shoes.**

Matthew 7:12

3. **Pray until you’re _____ to talk.**

Matthew 7:7-11

4. Take it slow, always _____ their current receptivity to the gospel.

Matthew 7:6

Jesus is saying that some people are simply not _____ to the gospel and that trying to force it on them is a recipe for having them turn on you.

When you try to help a friend who is going the wrong direction, you have to point them to the _____.

But what if our close friend who professes to be a Christian isn't open to the gospel as it _____ to their situation?

If our friend turns on us, we need to conclude they are not ready for the hearing the gospel applied to their _____. But don't act superior or condemn them. We, too, are not always open to the gospel. Instead, continue asking, seeking, and knocking in prayer and wait for God to do his work.

God has a unique _____ he's taking everybody on.

Tool: The 10-yard Conversation

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Do you recall a time you entered the wrong bathroom, headed the wrong way on a street, or found yourself in some other situation where you were going the wrong direction? Share it with your group.
3. Read Matthew 7:1-12. Judging in this context means condemning. How is Jesus calling us to apply discernment (a form of judgment) in other situations in the following passages?

Matthew 7: ¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 18: ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Galatians 6: ¹ Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

John 7: ²¹ Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. ²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. ²³ Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."