

Matthew 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The principle of reciprocal judgment warns that how we judge others sets the standard by which we'll be judged. Harsh, merciless judgment invites harsh judgment in return. This isn't earning salvation by works but describes how God's justice responds to hypocritical condemners who lack mercy while demanding it for themselves.

Historical Context

Jewish teaching included similar proverbs about reciprocal justice. Jesus applies this to judgmental attitudes within the community. Paul echoes this in Romans 2:1—those who judge others condemn themselves for doing the same things.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What standard of judgment do you apply to others that you'd not want applied to yourself?
2. How can you develop merciful judgment that still upholds truth and righteousness?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	ὃ	γὰρ	κρίματι	κριθήσεσθε	κριθήσεσθε	καὶ	ἐν
For	what	what	judgment	ye judge	ye judge	and	For
G1722	G3739	G1063	G2917	G2919	G2919	G2532	G1722
ὃ	μέτρῳ	μετρεῖτε	ἀντιμετρηθήσεται	ὑμῖν			
what	measure	ye mete	again	to you			
G3739	G3358	G3354	G488	G5213			

Additional Cross-References

James 2:13 (Judgment): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Mark 4:24 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

Luke 6:38 (Parallel theme): Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Obadiah 1:15 (Parallel theme): For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

Revelation 18:6 (Parallel theme): Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Judges 1:7 (Parallel theme): And Adoni-bezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: as I have done, so God hath requited me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (Parallel theme): But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

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