**THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

**Matthew 7:1-6**

**"Sawdust Seekers and Plank Purgers"**

***Matthew 22:29, "But Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."***

***John 7:7, "The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.***

***John 7:24, “Do not judge by appearances but judge with right judgment"***

**Warning of "Judge not" means:**

 1. Judge someone not when you assess their position but when you dismiss them as a person.

“Relationships are based on redemptive empathy rather than condemning detachment.” -- William Warren

2. Judge someone in a hypercritical, condemning, and destructive way

3. The tone of your life is going to become the tone of your judgment

***Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.***

***Matthew 6:12, “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”***

***Matthew 6:14-15, “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”***

4. There is a tendency to exaggerate the faults of others and minimize the gravity of your own.

Two types of people: Sawdust Seekers and Plank Purgers

**Sawdust Seeker** - actively seeks out faults in others in order to criticize and tell others about it.

1. Enhances their reputation by knocking down someone else's
2. Condemn in others what they tolerate in themselves

3. Enjoys telling others as a "concerned friend" - Gossip veiled as a prayer request.

4. Allows failure of others to decrease their concern for the faults they know they have.

**Plank Purger** - sees sin in someone else and knows priority is to get it out of their own life first.

1. Determine the root sin in the actions being judged.
2. Look for that same root in your life.
3. Ask forgiveness and for God to remove the plank from your eye
4. Humbly and gently remove the sawdust from another's eye

***Galatians 6:1, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”***