

“Believers and Judging Appropriately”
Matthew 7: 1-6

March 13, 2022



Verse 1-2

Believers – *Do not judge for condemnation*

Judge = “*krino*” = to divide, separate, make a distinction; to decide for condemnation

Jesus is addressing judging for condemnation

We do not have the ability to judge **motives** or the **heart** of another

Only God can!!

Judging inappropriately:

- 1) A condemning spirit
- 2) Finger in the face judging
- 3) Tearing someone down to elevate self

Judging appropriately - Judge for identification

- 1) Is the person open to the truth of God's Word
- 2) Is the person open to restoration, or simply rationalizing their choices

Proverbs 31: 9

1 Corinthians 2: 15

John 7: 24

Christians are to be discerning; able to judge whether true or false, right or wrong

- **Based on the Word of God, not on the individual's feelings**

Many professing believers talk a good game

- **Their actions, and obedience to Jesus' teachings, will reveal if they are genuine**

He said there were two kinds of
Christians: those who sincerely
believe in God and those who, just as
sincerely, believe that they believe.
You can tell them apart by their
actions in decisive moments.

-Richard Wurmbrand

Jesus made this very clear:

*“My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and
they follow Me.”*

John 10: 27

Make sure your belief train is going in the right
direction

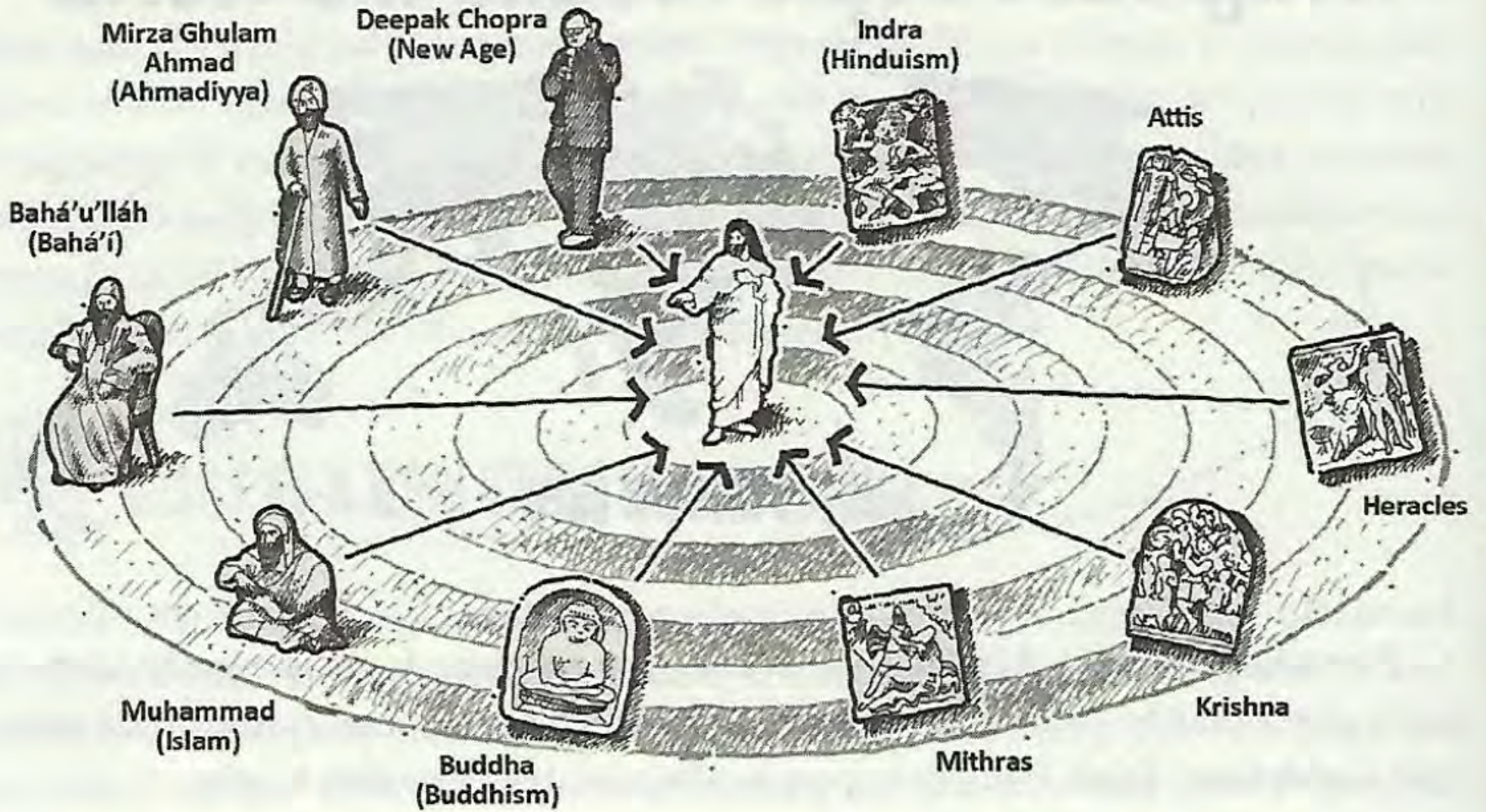


If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction.

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* —

AZ QUOTES





Verse 3 - 5

Believers – *Do not be a speck inspector*

Do you ***“look at the speck”***?

- The idea is a continuous look
- Continue to look at their failure ***(their speck)*** and miss my plank!



Thanks to Richard Gervais (See Matthew 7:1-5) 10-20-2018

OH GREAT, HERE COMES THE CHURCH SPECK
INSPECTOR ... AND HIS BEAM IS BIGGER
THAN EVER TODAY

Pharisees are into specks – *your specks bug them!*

Jesus did not like Pharisees (*speck inspectors*)

Matthew 23: 4-5

Jesus called them ***“Hypocrite!”*** = mask wearer,
performer

LESSON: Before you jump all over someone’s
speck, ***deal with your own plank!***

“First remove the plank from your own eye”

Verse 6

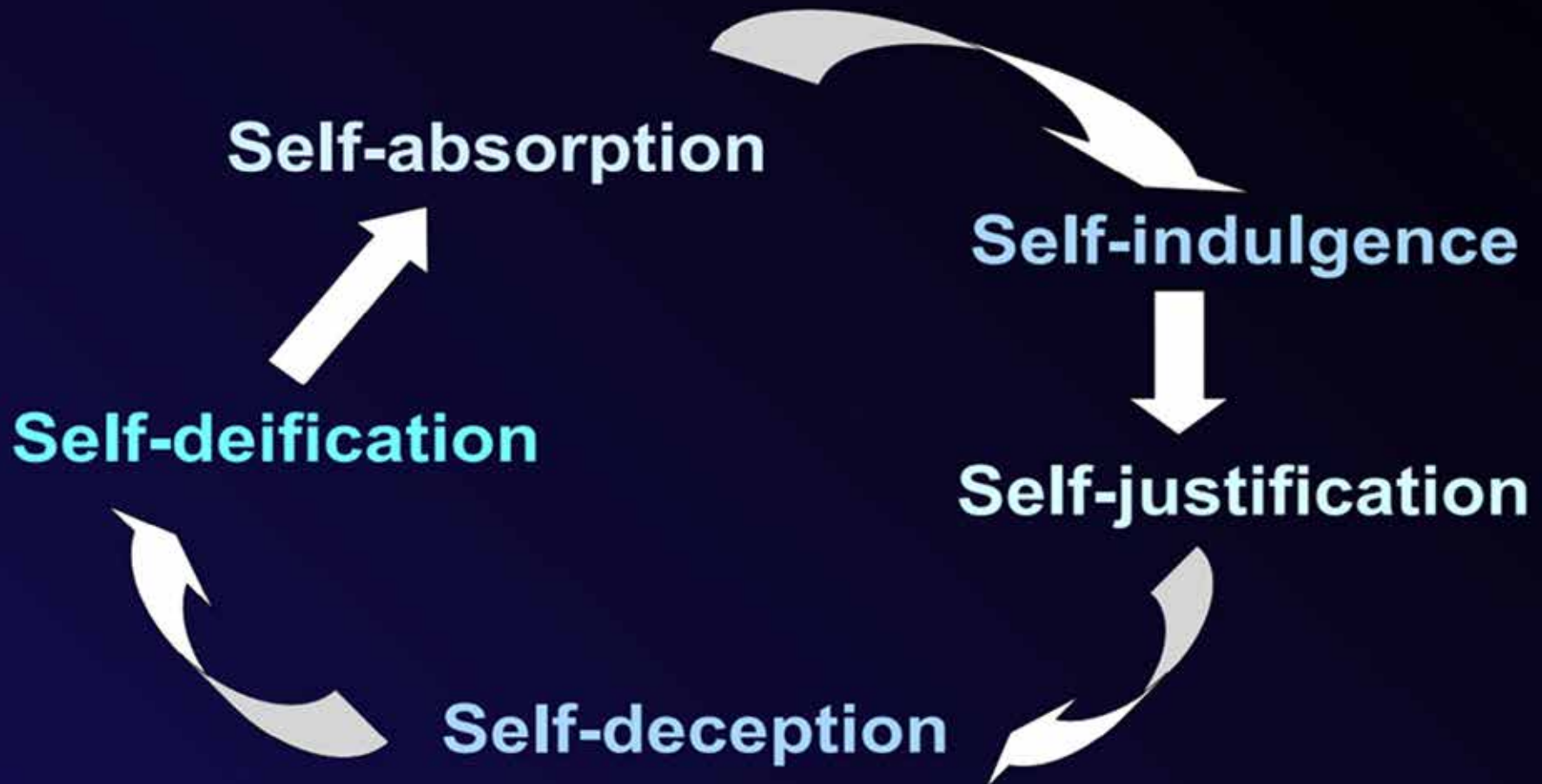
**Believers – *Do not force the Good News
of the Kingdom***

Be **discerning** = “*diakrsis*” = to make a distinction; a thorough judgment

When facing the arrogant, self-absorbed, “*I am okay just the way I am*” person

SAVE YOUR BREATH!!

ARROGANCE CYCLE:



JESUS' WARNING:

***“Do not give what is holy to the dogs;
nor cast pearls before swine, lest they
trample them under their feet and turn
and tear you in pieces.”***

**Many love their sin and could care less about
your attempt to help them with their sin!!**

**Don't cast your pearls before the swine, *they
may trample you!***

Jesus is urging wisdom in dealing with people

You must ask for wisdom in dealing with earth dwellers

Earth dweller is a designation for a persistent non-believer *(in Tribulation especially)*

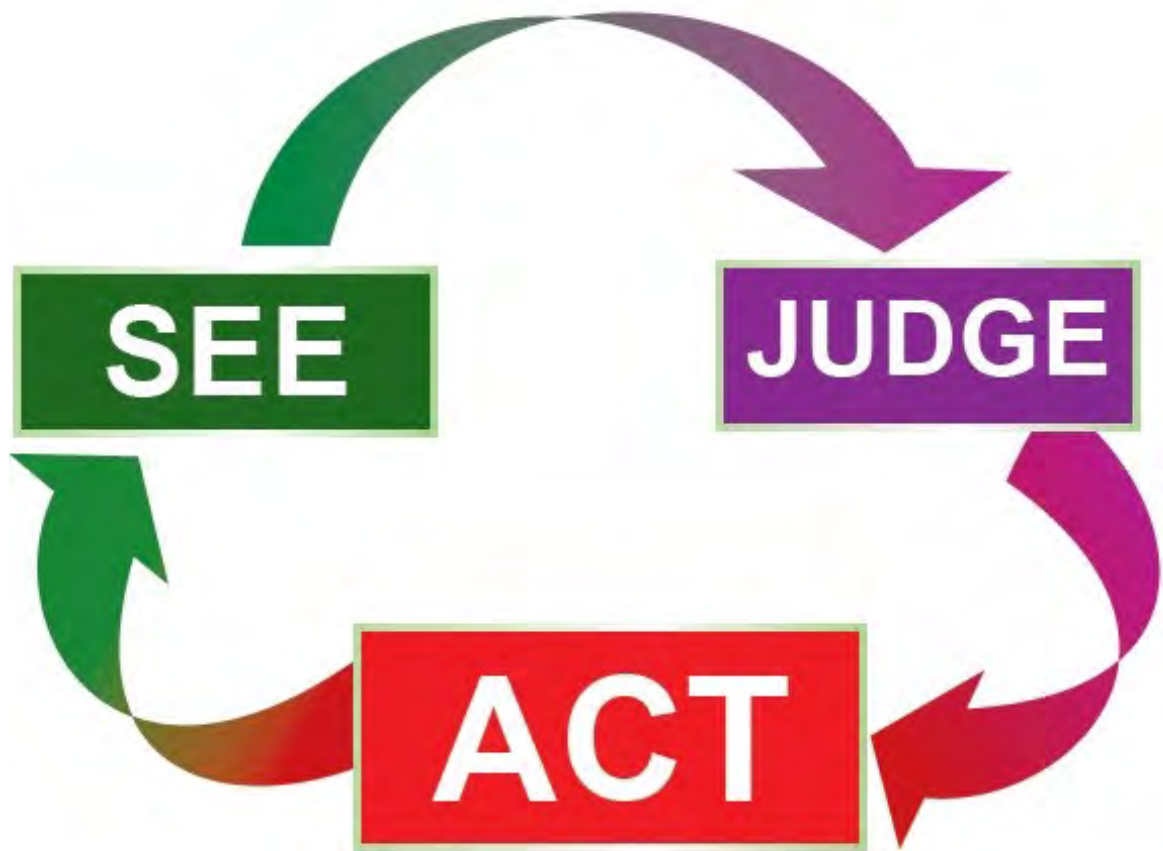
Wisdom = “*chokhmah*” = the ability to judge correctly; skillful in mind, word and action



The **LORD**
gives wisdom

Proverbs 2:6

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SEE

JUDGE

ACT

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

We are living in a time when fewer and fewer want to hear the truth

For the dogs, the swine, and the defiant ones, *those in the arrogance cycle, God cautions us!*

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs”

(the defiant ones)

Chuck Swindoll, in his book, “*Stress Fractures*”, tells us how to identify defiant ones (*arrogance cycle*):

- 1) I want my own way – *they think about me, me, me!***
- 2) I won’t quit until I get my way**
- 3) I don’t care who it hurts – *husband, wife, peers, parents, kids, friends, etc.***
- 4) I refuse to heed counsel – *no one can tell me what to do***
- 5) I am not concerned with the consequences
*(until they happen)***

Defiance and arrogance always leads to personal misery:

“Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard.”

Proverbs 13: 15

Jesus is telling His disciples to have wisdom when faced with defiance

A MUST KNOW: God is an expert in dealing with defiance and arrogance, ***we are not!***

SO

LET GO and LET GOD!!

**Go to your peace place and
allow God to work**

LIVE WITH HOPE!

GOD IS AWAKE!!



May the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow
with hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

You never know when God's miracle will occur!

When *defiance* and the *arrogance cycle* is broken!!

LIVE WITH HOPE!!

GOD IS AWAKE!!