Discipleship

Lesson

Mt. 7: 1-6

Judge not that you be not judged. These are probably some of the most quoted words from the Bible today. There are several ways to interpret “judge.”

1. To evaluate the morality of an action-to decide whether a particular action, attitude, or decision is right or wrong. If Jesus meant judge in this sense then John the Baptist was wrong, Paul was wrong, and Jesus himself broke this directive. If the verse means to not judge in this sense, then we are also prohibited from calling good things good and praising people for the good things they do.
2. To pronounce a punishment for a wrong; to execute justice on a wrongdoer;

I think that this is the sense that Jesus primarily meant; in addition, when we are critical of others, we can expect to receive criticism.