

## John 7:24

***Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.***

Today during my devotional time today, I read the following saying: *When we put ourselves in the other person's place, we're less likely to want to put them in their place.* How quick we are to judge someone else. We know what they are doing is wrong and we have them condemned to hell, even if they are believers.

Jesus said this about such a thing.

✠ Matt 7:3-4 (NLT) ***And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?***

When someone is struggling with sin, the last thing they need is for us to judge and condemn them. Sometimes God will allow us to go through things so that we can relate to what someone else is going through. You've heard people say before, *"You don't know what I'm going through because you have never been there."*

But there are times when we have been there and know exactly what they are going through. I know of times when I would share with someone something personal; about myself, and their response was that they thought that no one could ever understand what they were going through. They thought no one ever had to go through anything like they were before, especially a Christian. But we all struggle or have struggled with one sin or another. I know when I struggle with it, God brings someone along side of me who has gone through the same thing, because they know just what to say and the way I am feeling.

At a church I used to go to, people will come up to the pastor for prayer. After the pastor hears what his or her problem is, he grabs someone to come and pray with that person, someone he knows who has had the same struggle in the past with the same type of sin.

*"Well, he's the pastor and he should be praying for me and not throw me off to somebody else,"* you may be thinking.

You're right, he is the pastor, but he has not experienced all things, but knows someone who has experienced what you are going through. He's not blowing you off, he is using wisdom by bring you to someone who can really pray for you.

For some reason we seem to think that the pastor has an "in" with God, and if he prays for us then God will hear him and your prayer will be answered. You pastor is just a normal person like you and me. He has no special way of praying to get God to say yes. So don't put him at the top of a prayer pedestal. I think it would be

safe to say that there are others in your church who pray more than your pastor, they are what we call “prayer warriors”.

So before you judge someone else, put yourself in their shoes, before you try to knock them out of their shoes with your judging.

Remember when you struggled with a sin, and have the same compassion that you wanted and hopefully got.

† **1 Peter 3:8** *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.*