Sound Bite
Week 5: - To Judge or Not to Judge
May 25, 2025

1. Introduction
- Greeting and welcome to Tab.
- Acknowledgement of Memorial Day and a moment of prayer.
- Introduction to the theme: "To judge or not to judge?"

2. The Tension in Scripture
- Matthew 7:1-2 — Jesus says, *"Do not judge…"*
- John 7:24 — Jesus also says, *"Judge with righteous judgment…"*
- The Bible appears to both prohibit and permit judgment — how do we reconcile this?

3. Context is Key
- Example: The word *"hit"* has different meanings depending on context (parenting vs. baseball).
- Key Insight: Context helps us understand that Matthew 7 speaks to *religious hypocrisy*, not all judgment.

4. Righteous Judgment Requires Two Things

A. Right Motivation
- We must begin with introspection — why are we judging?
- Watch out for the *yeast of the Pharisees*: religious hypocrisy.

B. Right Metric
- The standard is not personal opinion, but God's righteousness.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 — Christ's righteousness exchanged for our sin.

5. Judgment Comes with Accountability
- Matthew 7:2 — We will be judged by the same standard.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 — Our deeds (good and evil) will be judged by Christ.
- Judgment isn't peer-to-peer; it's eternal and eschatological.

6. Jesus' Comical Yet Convicting Illustration
- Matthew 7:3–5 — The splinter and the beam analogy.
- It's foolish to correct others while ignoring our own sin.
- Introspection is a prerequisite for righteous judgment.
- Humility aligns our motives and reminds us we all fall short.

7. A Warning Against Hypocrisy in Practice

- Judgment should come from love and humility — not gossip or religious posturing.
  Example: Addressing sexual sin in culture while ignoring internal struggles like pornography.
  Statistic: 54% of Christians admit to viewing pornography occasionally — hidden sins within the church must be confronted.

8. The Balance: Avoiding Extremes

A. Extreme #1: Judgmentalism

- Leads to pride, hypocrisy, and spiritual harm.

B. Extreme #2: Naivete

- Matthew 7:6 — Don't toss pearls before pigs.
  Ethical relativism is equally dangerous.
  We must lovingly protect the community of faith and uphold truth.

9. The Standard is Christ

- Our foundation is God's righteousness as revealed through Jesus.
  We strive together toward holiness, not perfection, but progress.
  We don't flippantly judge, nor do we ignore sin.

10. Conclusion

- Reaffirming Tab's Core Values:
  - We Bend to the Book
  - We Inspire through Grace

- To judge or not to judge? It's not a simple answer.
- The Holy Spirit will lead us as we avoid extremes and walk in humility, truth, and grace.

11. Prayer

- Closing in prayer for guidance, humility, and the courage to live out God's truth in grace.