

Lesson 2: Judging Others

Reference: **Please Read:** **Matthew 7:1-6;** Luke 6:37-42

Theme: We reap what we sow, so let's treat others in the manner we want to be treated

Context: A Continuation of His Sermon on the Mount Concerning the Kingdom of God

Introduction:

Not all judgment is bad, there is righteous judgment that God gives that is perfect and may appear to be harsh to the casual observer. The Scripture tells us to judge prophecy, to judge ourselves and even there is an occasion when we are to judge Christian conduct.

God's Righteous Judgment – Hebrews 12:23

- When God judges it's when men are without excuse, know better- can't plead ignorance
 - o **Joshua 23:14-16; Luke 19:22; Romans 1:18-32; 2:12-16; Hebrews 10:26-31**
- His judgment is based on righteousness and true justice that can never be perverted
 - o **John 5:30; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 15:3; 16:4-7; 19:1-2**
- The Lord provides a generous period of time for people to repent and change
 - o **Genesis 15:16; 1 Timothy 5:24; Revelation 2:20-23**
- Whether nations or individuals, when they fail to repent, judgment comes- **Isa. 13:11-13**
 - o The Hebrews as slaves in Egypt- **Genesis 15:14**
 - o Sodom and Gomorrah- **Genesis 18:16-19:29; 2 Peter 2:4-10; 3:7; Jude 7**
 - o Amalekites attacking Israel while in the wilderness- **1 Samuel 15:3**
 - o God spared Nineveh when they repented at Jonah's message- **Jonah 3:3-4:11**

Ezekiel 18:23, "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?"

In **John 3:16-18** we see that in Jesus' first advent or coming, He did not come into the world to judge and condemn it, but to save it. However in His Second Advent, He comes to judge the wicked- rule and reign on the earth. **Revelation 19:11-21; 20:11-15.**

John 12:47-48

"As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

- Not only is God the judge of the wicked, but also of His children as well- **Heb. 6:2; 9:27**
 - o **Romans 14:9-13; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 4:17; James 5:9; 1 John 4:17**
- **Question:** "Why is it so easy for people to misunderstand God's judgments?"

Judgment without Mercy

James 2:12-13, “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!”

What makes the judgment of others so sinful is when it's handed out with no mercy to help and restore folks from what has taken them captive and in bondage to sin. As we had just examined, God who is a righteous judge always provides people a chance to repent and turn from their wicked ways before handing them over to be punished.

- The measure of severity and scrutiny that we subject others to, we will be held to
- The principle of reaping what we sow is in play- **Galatians 6:8-9**

Galatians 6:1-2, “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

- There's no such thing as a gift of discernment; to be able to discern people's characters
- In reality this is a bad habit of fault finding and having a critical spirit
- Not to be confused with the manifestation of the Spirit: Discerning of Spirits- **1Cor.12:10**

Matthew 7:5, “...first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

- I love the comparison Jesus makes between a speck of sawdust versus a plank of timber
- It's human nature for folks to be critical of others while giving themselves a pass
- Big difference between criticizing other's weakness and become a servant to help them
- To be in a position to help others, we must first tend to our own issues- by grace / faith

2 Timothy 2:20-21, “In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”

Question: “Why in James 2:13 does ‘Mercy triumph over judgment’?”

When it's Okay to Judge

The Bible is clear that we are not to judge sinners in the world, because it's their nature to sin. **John 3:16-18**. Sinners sin because they are sinners by nature spiritually, what they need is to be born again- **John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17**.

Is there ever a right time to pass judgment on others? I believe the answer to that question is yes, according to the Bible. However, when we do so, we must be sure to walk in love and humility ourselves without comparing ourselves with others.

The “Judge” infers to parts. First to discern, see and examine the facts in order to ascertain the truth. The second part is then to exert the appropriate level of punishment or vindication.

Judge Utterances

Acts 17:11, “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

- God’s Word is our final authority for all matters that pertain to life and conduct
- Told to judge prophecy or spiritual utterances with the Word- weigh as in a balance
- 1 Cor. 14:29 NKJ, “Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.”
- 1 Cor. 14:29 AMP “...while the rest pay attention and weigh and discern what is said.”

False Brothers

2 Corinthians 11:13

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

- Most of the New Testament was written to combat false brothers and teachings.
 - o **Gal. 1:6-9; 2:1-5; 1 Tim. 1:3; 6:3; 2 Peter 2; 2 John 10-11; Jude 3-19; Rev. 2:20-23**
- Paul warned of wolves who will attack the sheep with false doctrines- destructive
 - o **Acts 20:29-31; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1:4**
- Necessary in order to prevent the infiltration and contamination amongst us
 - o Consider Ananias and his wife Sapphira in **Acts 5:1-16**

Immoral Brothers

- Moral failure and unrepentant sin is a serious thing in the church
- We all make mistakes, but when one is proud of their sin that’s a different matter
 - o **Please Read: 1 Corinthians chapter 5**
- The resolution of this incident was addressed in **2 Corinthians 2:5-11; 7:8-12; 12:20-21**
- There are times when we are to judge and hold other Christians accountable-**1Cor. 6:1-6**
- Notice how believers are to treat even Christians who are lazy- **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**

Church Discipline

- The subject of Church discipline is important- **Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Timothy 1:20**
- So what should we do when we are disobedient? Repent and judge ourselves
 - o **1 Corinthians 11:27-33; Revelation 2:21**
- Pastors in the church provide leadership in these matters- **1 Peter 5:1-5**