

BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

“WHAT IS MEANT BY JUDGING?”

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH...



“WHAT IS MEANT BY JUDGING?”

What did the Lord Jesus mean when he said; “Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matthew 7:1)? Was he saying that we should leave people alone, and just let them live how they want to? Was he saying that we should not point out other’s faults or shortcomings? What was he saying... what did he mean... and what does it mean to judge?

Well first of all we must continue to examine the rest of the passage in Matthew 7, verses 3-5. In verse 2 we see that there is a warning for being unmerciful: (“*For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again*”). Galatians 6:7 says “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”. If we have not showed mercy to others, how can we expect that we should receive mercy?

Now as we continue in verse 3 of Matthew 7 we can gain some greater understanding. (*Let us also keep in mind that Jesus is talking to the saved about the saved*). Verse 3: And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

We are asked the question... WHY..? First, we are commanded by Christ to take a look at ourselves. It is very easy to look at other people and see their faults, without taking any thought to mortify or correct the shortcomings in our own lives. Verse 4 continues with the same theme, showing that we first have an obligation to examine our selves (2Cor. 13:5).

Now verse 5 makes it very plain and gives very explicit instructions to us. First we are to clean up our own act so to speak, and then will we be in a position to help others. Also as Jesus told Peter in Luke 22:31-32, that satan desired to have him to sift him as wheat, but Jesus prayed that his faith would not fail. And he said to Peter, “when thou art converted (changed), strengthen thy brother”. It is only after we are matured, that we can help other saints to be strengthened to correct the weak areas in their own lives... only if they will allow you to.

So the question that we are studying is... “what is meant by judging”?

Let’s take a look at Romans chapter 2. In verse 1 we read: “*Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things*”. The answer to our question is found in this verse and in verse 2.

To judge another is not merely just to point out a shortcoming, weakness or sin, but to judge another is to condemn someone for something that you are doing, and to cover it up as if there is nothing wrong with you doing it (refer back to Matthew 7 verses 2-5 and also the 3rd verse of Romans 2). The phrase... “for wherein...” is the equivalent of saying; “you are guilty of the same thing that you are accusing someone else of”

(See verses 20-22 of Romans 2nd chapter).

Now let us look at verse 2 or Romans 2nd chapter. “But we are sure that the *judgment of God is according to truth* against them which commit such things”. Now here we have greater revelation... Paul says that “*the judgment of God is in truth!!*”. In other words, God knows all, sees all, hears all, even our thoughts are not hid from him. God alone knows the sum of a person, and for us to pronounce condemnation (judgment) upon someone is putting ourselves in the place of God. After all that is what judgment is: *to pass a sentence of innocence or guilt upon a person to either condemn or justify.*

So to sum up this portion of the study on “what is meant by judging,” we have seen that first, we must be converted and come to a level of maturity ourselves before we can begin to point out others weaknesses in an effort to help them be stronger. Second, to judge another is to condemn them of the same things that you are doing, while believing that you are innocent and will escape the judgment of God. Third, only God knows a person completely, and his judgment is in truth. When we condemn or even attempt to justify a person we put ourselves in the place of God.

But now understand this; there are times in life that we must make judgments in various issues and situations in our living and walk of faith on this earth and even in our dealings with people (2 Corinthians 13th chapter). We are commanded to watch, to be aware, and to be vigilant.

In the very same chapter of Matthew 7 verses 15-16, Jesus said to beware... and that we would know true prophets from false prophets... **How?** By the.... **Fruit!!** (So I guess that we **are** to be fruit inspectors). Also in Acts 20:28-31, Paul gives a very stern warning to the leaders before his departure that there would be some that would come in (*even from among themselves*) to cause destruction and split up the flock.

Now was Paul judging some that were there? Was Jesus wrong for calling some that would appear... false prophets? Even Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:26 observed that there are and would be *false brethren*. What about Peter in Acts 8:13-23, when he told Simon (the sorcerer) who supposedly converted and was baptized, that his *heart was not right in the sight of God*. How could Peter say that!! How could he tell Simon that his heart was not right! Peter is not God!! It's not his job to tell someone if they are right with God or not!! (Of course I am speaking foolishly here, but I did this because that is the way that most people fill, and that's what's being taught... that we should leave people alone and allow the Lord to deal with them. That is not what the Bible teaches...!

By their fruit you will know them, Peter was looking at the type of fruit that Simon was producing. When a person has truly repented, and is godly sorrowful for their actions, there will be a true change. Did not John the Baptist in the wilderness command the Pharisees and Scribes to bring forth fruit meet (proof) for repentance?)

So you see, when someone is confronted about their life style or that they walk with God in error or is not right, the first thing that they will say to you is *what?* “You can't judge me”, “you are not God”... and on and on it goes. And that is why the scripture says that “every man did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 17:6/21:25).

So we make up what is right for us as we go along, not using the word as our foundation and guide, but living after our own fleshly pleasures (Proverbs 12:15/14:12/Judges 17:6/21:25/Eph.2:3/Rom. 13:14).

Let us now look at 1Corinthians 5th chapter. We see here that Paul was told about a young man that was having sexual relations with his father's wife (probably his step mother). Paul gave instructions concerning how this situation should be dealt with (verses 4-5). He also stated in verse 3 that he has *judged* already the one that has done this deed. You see as I stated earlier, that it has been taught that we should not pass judgment regarding people because that individual may be "*God's anointed*"... and so on...but we are clearly told in the scriptures what manner of life we should be living after we have received Christ and become believers. Remember Jesus said that "by their fruit ye shall know them".

What ever happened to the verses that say we are to reprove, rebuke and to exhort one another to godly living? We have that responsibility and charge to do so, not saying that we should judge individuals in an effort to condemn them, anyone has the ability to change. Now look at verses 11-13. Listen to Paul's very stern instructions in the 11th verse. He said not to keep company with any man *that says* he is a brother (believer), but yet he is practicing fornication (sexual immorality), covetousness (greed/stinginess), idolatry (idol worship), railing (to scold in harsh abusive language), drunkenness (habitual excessive use of alcohol) and extortion (gross overcharge in commerce). He said no, not to even eat with that person, (very strong language, isn't it?).

Verse 12 Paul makes the statement that we are to judge them that are within...meaning *the saved*. Those that are without...meaning the ungodly or sinners, we have no need to judge the things that they do because sinners do what sinners do...**they sin!!!** But we who are called by the name of Christ are expected to live according to a higher standard (2 Tim. 2:19).

In verse 13 Paul clarifies this, "But them that are without God judgeth".

In verses 9-10, Paul says that he wrote before that they should not keep company with fornicators, covetous, extortioners...etc... He said that he was not talking so much about the sinners of the world...if that were the case, we (the saved) would have to leave the planet. But he makes it clear that he is referring to those that say that they are saved but are still practicing **sin!**

So what are we supposed to do? What are we commanded to do? It is very hard in the day in which we live, to try and help someone to come higher or to become mature (perfect) in their walk of Godliness, because first of all they will think that you are self righteous and prideful, or will think that, you think that you know it all.

Or they will find something negative to say to (and) about you. Also there is the problem with humanistic new age self love teachings that have been mixed with biblical scripture and preached across the pulpits of many of our Christian churches. Mostly the teachings that make people feel good about themselves, teachings that promote self-esteem, loving and believing in yourself and many other self centered teachings and doctrines that appeal to the flesh.

So instead of producing soldiers that will endure hardness...we have babes that continually need to be pampered, refusing to be whined from the breast, Christians that are not prepared for the moving of the Lord, the work of the ministry, or for the meat of the word (1Corinthians 3:2).

There is a proper use for judging, as well as an improper use for judging. Jesus stated in John 7:24 when confronted by the Pharisees over the healing of a man on the Sabbath day..."Judge not according to the appearance, but judge *righteous judgment*.

Again, confronting the Pharisees in Luke 11:42/Matthew 23:23 over the issue of tithing, Jesus considered (or judged), judgment, mercy and faith to be more important than the tithe.

And although the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes were the religious leaders of those times and they looked the part on the outside, Jesus saw right through their hypocrisy.

Let's face it; we are a people that hate the thought of confrontation, but not all confrontation is bad. We would rather be content to see saints that are maybe acting, speaking or behaving in a way that is not Christ-like, and leave them alone, rather than to confront them...not in a harsh way!, but in meekness and gentleness of Spirit. But be warned!...you may be treated harshly in return, but remember, Jesus told Peter to strengthen the brethren when he is converted...so if you have matured in certain areas, you would only be doing what Jesus commanded.

There is probably much more that I can say in regards to this subject, but I think that I will leave it at that for now. But just remember, Christianity today is vastly different from what it was in days gone by. There are many that are teaching feel good messages, no repentance or godly sorrow, no self examination, no dying to the flesh, nothing that says that we are to come out of this worldly system and be separate. They are in fact preaching another Christ, a Christ that accepts everyone, and requires no change from them. Carnal Christianity is alive and well!!

I pray that the Holy Spirit of God has enlighten you on this subject, and that you have gained a greater understanding. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at: brokenvessel51@yahoo.com

B-blessed;
Michael Williams Sr.