

Thou Shalt Not Judge

I. Hebrew 12:15 - It's our job to distribute Grace to each other not judge each other.

A. Isaiah 35:8 - "A *highway shall be there, yes, a way; it shall be called the Holy way."*

1. Highway = maslool = journey

2. **Way = Derek = course of life or destiny**

3. It's a highway to holiness - Holy = godesh = separated to God's service.

a. **Your destiny is the way to holiness.**

b. Holiness is determined by your purpose, not your purity.

c. **But it is in pursuing your purpose that you will become pure.**

B. Isa 35:8 - The unclean will not travel on it, but it {will} be for him who walks {that} way, and fools will not wander {on it}.

1. **Jesus is the one that makes you clean.**

2. The problem is that the people who initially get on the highway don't act or look clean

a. **Positionally they are - but experientially their not.**

b. Jesus cleans you inwardly which will get you on the highway that will clean outwardly. Their purpose will produce their purity.

- (NKJV) *Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.*

- (NRSV) *no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.*

- (TLB) *God will walk there with you even the most stupid cannot miss the way*

3. **It's our job to help them stay on the Highway and not drive them off. Verse 9**

a. The redeemed should neither act like a Lion or become vicious.

b. **Most of my attacks have come from the redeemed not the reprobates.**

Phillip Yancy wrote - a Prostitute came to me in wretched strait's, homeless, sick, unable to buy food for her two-year old daughter. Through sobs and tears, she told me how she sold herself to men for kinky sex. She had to do it, she said, to support her daughter and drug habit. I asked if she had ever thought of going to a church for help. I won't ever forget the look of shock that crossed her face. Church! She cried. "Why would I ever go there? I am already feeling terrible about myself. They would just make me feel worse."

- c. What strikes me about this story is that people much like this prostitute fled toward Jesus, not away from him.
- d. The worst a person felt about themselves, the more likely he or she saw Jesus as a refuge.**
- e. Evidently the down and out, who flocked to Jesus when he was on Earth, no longer feels welcome among His followers.

An organization in Los Angeles operates the Apology Sound-Off Line, a telephone service that gives callers and opportunity to confess their wrongs for the price of a phone call. People who no longer believe in priests now trust their sins to an answering machine. 200 anonymous callers contact the service each day, leaving 60 second messages.

In his book *Guilt and Grace*, the swiss doctor Paul Tournier, a man of deep personal faith, admits, *“I cannot study this very serious problem of guilt with you without raising the very obvious and tragic fact that religion, my own as well as that of all believers, can crush instead of liberate.”*

3. What people truly seek is grace. Yet from some christians they encounter shame, the threat of punishment, and a sense of judgement

- a. Mark Twain used to talk about Christians “good in the worst sense of the word.”
- b. As a little girl prayed, “O God, make the bad people good, and the good people nice.”**

II. The judgment of man is godless judging - Romans 2:1-4

A. Who is this “every man of you?”

- 1. The man who filters God’s grace through his own opinion
- 2. Anyone who dilutes God’s mercy with his own prejudice**
- 3. Scripturally:
 - **He is the prodigal’s brother who won’t attend the party**
 - He is the 10 hour worker, upset, because the 1 hour worker got the same
 - **He is one those who brought the adulteress to Jesus but couldn’t throw a**
 - He is the one aware of his brothers speck but oblivious to his log.

B. Only God can judge - not us.

- 1. It’s our job to hate sin, it’s Gods job to deal with the sinner.

2. It's one thing to have an opinion, it's another to pass a verdict.

3. It's one thing to have a conviction, it's another to convict the person.

C. There are two reasons why man shouldn't judge man.

1. We aren't good enough - Romans 3:12 & 23

a. Judging others is a quick and easy way to feel good about ourselves.

- As long as I'm thinking of your weakness, I don't have to think of mine.

- **We are like the man who went to see the psychiatrist**

- Rather than admit our faults, we find faults in others

- **Compared to others, we're not so bad.**

b. That's the problem - God doesn't compare us to them. They are not the standard, God is. "You must be perfect, just as your father in heaven is perfect."

Matthew 5:48.

c. Which one of us deserves to don the robe and stand behind the bench and judge others.

- Can the hungry accuse the beggar?

- **Can the ill mock the sick?**

- Can the blind judge the deaf?

- **Can the excessive eater condemn the excessive drinker?**

- Can the one who yells at their children condemn the one who beats his kids?

- **Can the exaggerator condemn the liar?**

- Can the workaholic condemn the lazy?

- **Can the fearful condemn the lustful?**

- Can the sinner condemn the sinful?

d. When Jesus who could judge had the opportunity, He chose not to.

2. We don't know enough - 1 Corinthians 4:5

a. We don't know enough about their yesterdays.

- We condemn a man for stumbling this morning, but we didn't see the blows he took yesterday.
- **We judge the limp we see in their walk, but are ignorant of the tack in their .**
- We mock the fear in their eyes but are unaware of the stones they have
- **Are they too loud? - Maybe, they have a fear of being ignored again.**
- Are they too timid? - Maybe, they fear failing again.
- **Are they too slow? - Maybe, they fell the last time they hurried.**

The story is told of Mr. Jones who picked up the wrong umbrella in a hotel lobby and was about to walk out when the rightful owner called attention to his mistake. embarrassed, he offered his apologies. Finding his own, he went on his way. The incident, however, reminded him that he had promised to buy both his wife and daughter an umbrella. To his delight he found that a local store nearby had them on sale, so he bought two. Just as he was getting into his car with his unwrapped purchases, he saw the man he had encountered earlier. He was eyeing him suspiciously. Seeing the three umbrellas hooked over his arm, the stranger exclaimed sarcastically, "I see you had a good day after all!" Although Mr. Jones blushed, he was not guilty of any wrongdoing. Things are not always what they appear to be on the surface. Beware of the sin of misjudging others!

b. We don't know enough about their tomorrow.

- **Dare we judge a book while chapters are yet unwritten?**
- Is it fair to pass a verdict on a painting while the artist still holds the brush?
- **Can we judge the sculpture while the chisel is still in the sculptor's hand.**
- Philippians 1:6 (NASB) [For I am] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- **PBPWMGNFWMY**

3.. Be Careful:

a The Peter who denies Jesus at tonight's fire may proclaim him with fire at tomorrow's Pentecost.

b. The Samson who is blind and weak today may use his final strength to level the pillars of godlessness.

c. A stammering shepherd in this generation may be the mighty Moses of the next.

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph, Woodcrafters Carpenter Shop Nazareth, 35922

FROM: Jordon Management Consultants Jerusalem, 26544

RE: Staff Team Evaluation:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant. It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel it our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic- depressive scale. One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self explanatory. We wish you every success in your new venture.