Judge Not

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

A. When those who are called to fish, don't fish, they fight.

1. When energy intended to be used outside is used inside the result is explosive:
   a. instead of casting nets, we cast stones.
   b. instead of extending helping hands, we point accusing fingers.
   c. instead of being fishers of the lost, we become critics of the saved.
   d. instead of helping the hurting, we hurt the helpers

2. The result is split churches, poor testimonies, broken hearts, and legalistic wars.

3. And sadly, the poor go unfed, confused go unconsolled and the lost go unreached.

4. But when those who are called to fish, fish, they flourish. Self will be forgotten others will be served - and stress will be relieved.
   a. nothing handles a case of gripes like a service project.
   b. nothing restores perspective better than a visit to the hospital ward.
   c. nothing unites christians together like a common task.

B. Luke 6:35 - Jesus was kind to the ungrateful and the evil and so must we.

1. Let me ask you some questions?
   - would Jesus heal someone that wasn't worthy of good health?
   - would some use their new-found health to hurt others?
   - would Jesus release tongues that would someday curse?
   - would Jesus give sight to eyes that would lust?
   - would Jesus heal hands that would someday kill?
   - would Jesus give gifts to people who may use them for evil?

2. The answer to all of these questions is YES!

3. The reason being is that His goodness is spurred by His nature and not our goodness.

4. Each time Jesus healed or blessed He had to overlook both the past and the future.
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.

III. There are two reasons why man shouldn’t judge man.

A. We aren’t good enough - Romans 3:12 & 23

1. Judging others is a quick and easy way to feel good about ourselves.
   a. As long as I’m thinking of your weakness, I don’t have to think of mine.

   b. We are like the man who went to see the psychiatrist

   c. Rather than admit our faults, we find faults in others

   d. Compared to others, we’re not so bad.

2. 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.

3. 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?

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

B. We don’t know enough - 1 Corinthians 4:5

1. 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!

2. 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:

- The Peter who denies Jesus at tonight’s fire may proclaim him with fire at tomorrow’s Pentecost.
- The Samson who is blind and weak today may use his final strength to level the pillars of godlessness.
- 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.