

Who's The Judge ?

Text : **James 4: 10-12 ; Romans 14: 1-13**

pre. 1

S#2.

A. In recent lessons we've looked at relationships from several directions.

1. Relationship with God.
 - a. Trusting Him without question
 - b. Realizing that He allows evil in our lives to benefit, to strengthen our faith.
2. Relationship with God's word.
 - a. Implant it in our hearts to become part of our thought process.
 - b. More than just study His word, it must be applied in our lives.
3. Having the word as part of our thought process causes us to treat people lovingly.
 - a. We never exploit the poor, but take care of those who cannot care for themselves.
 - b. We do not look down on anyone, but treat all people with love and respect.
4. When the word has been implanted and lead us to salvation, it changes our lives.
 - a. Faith is easily observable in the lives of those who have it.
 - b. Faith expresses itself in one's conduct and in the way he treat others, meets needs.
5. True faith causes one to want to tell others, but he must first be master of his tongue,
 - a. The tongue is small be has the potential for great harm or great good.
 - b. If the word is implanted in one's heart, it will come out his mouth.

Matt. 12: 34-35 – You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what **S#3.**
is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
35 The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good;
and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.
6. The chapter we are now working explains that one must choose : **the world or God.**
 - a. As a bride commits herself to her husband, God demands complete loyalty.
 - b. By its very nature, loyalty cannot be divided.

Matt. 6: 24 – No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one **S#4.**
and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and wealth.
 - c. To seek to maintain a relationship with this world is spiritual adultery.

James 4:4 – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the
world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to
be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
7. Perusing a relationship with God requires that one accept God's enemy as his own.
 - a. **James 4: 7** – Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **S#5.**

- b. **Eph. 6: 11** – Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

B. With our current lessons we are observing some of the ramifications of being submissive to God as the Lord of our lives.

- 1. The Lord of one's life is the ruler of his life who exercises absolute control over it.
 - a. Having Jesus as the ruler, Lord, Master of our lives demands that we obey Him.

- b. **Luke 6: 46** – Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

- 2. A servant or a bondservant serves voluntarily so he seeks to please his Master.

- a. The volunteer is not double-minded like one who is drafted or enslaved.

James 4: 8 – ... purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- b. When he disappoints his Master, it grieves him.

James 4: 9 – Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

- c. He is not an unhappy, despondent or morose kind of person, but he finds no pleasure in anything that disappoints his Master.

C. Our last lesson considered our communication about our brethren to others. S#6.

- 1. We observed that we cannot tolerate tendency in ourselves to speak evil of others.
- 2. We discussed some of the reasons why we sometimes do speak evil of others.
- 3. We conceded that the results of evil speaking and gossip are always negative.
- 4. We concluded that we must help each other if we're to get the victory over tongue.

D. Today we'll explore what God meant when He forbid us to "judge" one another.

James 4: 11-12 –Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. **12** There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor? **S#7.**

E. Lord willing, it is the objective of this lesson to :

S#8.

- 1. Clarify what it means to judge
- 2. As the sovereign ruler, God judges as He wills.
- 3. We are commanded to judge, is that a contradiction ?
- 4. We will see that it's okay for brethren to disagree
- 5. We will all stand before the judgment bar of God.

I. In scripture, what is meant by “judging?”**S#9.****A. To judge can mean to bring condemnation upon.**

1. **Gen. 15: 13-14** – God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. **14** "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. **S#10.**
2. This “judgment” of Egypt resulted in the plagues and their army being drown.

B. To judge can mean to arbitrate between two people.

1. **Gen. 16: 4-6** – He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. **5** And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the Lord judge between you and me." **6** But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence. **S#11.**
2. Abraham arbitrated to resolve the issue between the rival wives.

C. Rulers were often referred to as judges.

1. **Exod.18: 25-26** – Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. **26** They judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge. **S#12.**
2. **Judge 2: 18-19** – When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them. **19** But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways. **S#13.**

D. To judge another person is to evaluate him and to attribute a motive based on it.

1. **Rom. 14: 1** – Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. ... **4** Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ... **10** But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **S#14.**
2. This is the forbidden judge because it places a value on another.

II. As the sovereign ruler of all creation, God brings judgments on men.**S#15.**

- A. Genesis 3 ... God brought judgment on Adam, Eve and the serpent.
- B. Genesis 4 ... God passed judgment on Cain
- C. Genesis 6-7 ... God judged all mankind except one family
- D. Genesis 11 ... God judged mankind again by confusing their language
- E. Genesis 19 ... God brought judgment upon Sodom and the cities of the plain.
- F. Exodus 7-14 ... God judged Egypt
- G. God used Joshua to judge the nations of Canaan.
- H. At differing times God used Syria and Babylon to judge Israel and Judah.
- J. God then judged Syria and Babylon.
- K. Matthew 24-25 ... God used the Romans to judge Judah
- L. Revelation ... God judged the Romans
- D. God reserves ALL punitive judgment to Himself.
 - 1. **Heb. 10: 30-31** – For we know Him who said, “VENGENCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.”
And again, “THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.”
31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - 2. **THUS**, one who judges another usurps the authority of God.

S#17.**III. Even so, Christians are commanded to judge others. Is this a contradiction ?**

- A. Christians are commanded to judge righteously.
 - 1. **John 7: 23-24** – If a man receives circumcision on *the* Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on *the* Sabbath? **24** Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment. **S#18.**
 - 2. Righteous judgment is still judgment; it is based on God's standard.
 - 3. There are times the Christians must evaluate another Christian.
 - a. **I Cor. 5: 10-11** – I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. **11** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. **S#19.**
 - b. How does one decide who is a covetous brother ? *He must make a judgment.*
 - c. Judgment is based on observation, not on suspicion or gossip.

B. Christians must appoint arbiters to judge between brethren.

1. **Matt. 18: 18ff** ... The first step is always one on one. "Go to him ..."
2. **Gal. 6: 1** ... Observable sin is handled one on one. "Restore him ..."
3. **I Cor. 6: 1-5** – Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, **S#20.** dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? **2** Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to *constitute* the smallest law courts? **3** Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? **4** So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? **5** I say *this* to your shame. *Is it so, that* there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren.

C. The judgment which is forbidden places a negative value on another Christian.

1. **Phil. 2** ... Value others above one's self.
2. Judging exposes evil motives on the part of the one judging.
James 2: 3-4 – and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the **S#21.** fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

D. The judgment that is forbidden attributes a motive to another Christian.

1. **I Cor. 4: 5** ... Only God knows the hearts of men.
2. **James 4** ... Assuming evil motives others violates the Royal Law ... love.

IV. It is okay for brethren to disagree about some things.**S#22.****A. Christians must be accepting of one another, warts and all.**

1. **Rom. 15: 7** – Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us **S#23.** to the glory of God.
2. Love covers over a multitude of sins, imperfections, irritations, suspicions.
 - a. **I Pet. 4: 8** – Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
 - b. Judging points them out rather than overcoming them.

B. Not ever religious position held is a matter of doctrine .. or salvation.

1. **Rom. 14: 1** – Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. **2** One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.

2. If a brother wants to be a vegan he has the right to do so, but he cannot bind it.
3. If a Christian wants to observe special days he can do it.
 - a. **Rom. 14: 5** – One person regards one day above another, another regards **S#24.** every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.
6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.
 - b. The Sabbath and other Jewish holidays
 - c. Christmas and Easter (All Saints Day)
3. This attitude tends to remain a problems in many congregations.
 - a. The way we do benevolence .. just members, with other congregation
 - b. The way we take communion .. one cup, must break bread, fermented wine
 - c. The way we organize a congregation .. who can be elder, must their be deacons
 - d. How we use our church house .. is it sanctified ONLY for worship, fellowship
- C. Many divide the church over things that are not Heaven and Hell issues.

V. We will all individually stand before the judgment bar of Jesus. **S#25.**

A. God is the only one qualified to judge all men justly because only HE knows all.

I Cor. 4: 5 – Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait **S#26.** until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

B. God will judge each person individually.

Rom. 2: 5-6 – But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you **S#27.** are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, **6** who will render to each person according to his deeds: (*by deeds, all are condemned, some under grace*)

C. The day is set and Jesus is ready to judge.

Acts 17: 30-31 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is **S#28.** now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

INVITATION : *The day is set !! When will it be ? Are you ready ?* **S#29.**

S#30. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 4: 10-13**

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. **12** There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

Romans 14: 1-13

1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. **2** One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. **3** The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. **4** Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. **7** For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; **8** for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise."

12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.