

Putting Aside Judging

Text : **Matt. 7: 1-5 ; Rom. 14: 1-13**

S#1.

S#2.

A. Last week we discussed the problem of racism and prejudice our nation is facing.

1. We noted that that it does exist, but it is more perceived than real.
 - a. People have used a horrible event to further a pre-existing false narrative.
 - b. Many seek political gain from fomenting riots within legitimate protests.
2. We noticed that the breakdown of civil society is the result of the breakdown of the institutions that have long bound us together.
 - a. Liberal anti-American teachers have taken over the educational system.
 - b. These same liberal educators ridicule religion and parents don't teach in the home.
3. Possibly the greatest source of problems in America is the breakdown of the family.
 - a. 35% of children born in 2018 were born into single parent situations. **23,900,000**
 - b. Our government bears part of the blame for this fatherlessness. (ADC rules)

B. Fatherlessness is a factor in most of our social ills.

S#3.

1. Statistics show this to be the case.
 - **Suicide:** 63 % of youth suicides
 - **Runaways:** 90 % of all homeless and runaway youths
 - **Behavioral Disorders:** 85 % of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders
 - **High School Dropouts:** 71 % of all high school dropouts
 - **Juvenile Detention Rates:** 70 % of juveniles in state-operated institutions
 - **Substance Abuse:** 75 % of adolescent patients in substance abuse centers
2. There is little hope of improving this situation until the **ADC** rules are changed.

C. These statistics and the current unrest demonstrate the need for a father.

1. Fatherless children act like fatherless children. **They do not know discipline.**

Heb. 12: 5 – you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; **6** for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives." **7** It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8** But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

S#4.

2. Social norms are passed down through the family unit.
3. The lack of discipline in the home is acted out openly in society.

- a. School classrooms are disrupted by undisciplined children.
- b. Our prisons are filled with fatherless children who ignored the rules.
- c. Children are taught respect by their fathers so the fatherless disrespect police.

D. Rather than judge the fatherless godly people have a responsibility toward them.

1. **Psa. 82:3** – Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. **4** Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. S#5.

2. We are often condemned (*and sometimes justly*) for being judgmental of these. S#6.

The devil's favorite verse is **Matt. 7:1** – Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

This lesson will briefly discuss some aspects of being judgmental.

I. Judging others requires an ability which NO man possesses.

S#7.

A. Those who use this verse know neither the context nor the meaning.

1. Context : **Jesus** was teaching His disciples about how to treat others.

Matt. 5: 1 –When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. S#8.

2. Jesus was talking to people who were ruled over by very judgmental people.

- a. The Pharisees delighted in condemning others and elevating themselves.

- b. **Mark 3: 22** – The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and " He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

B. Old preacher's story illustrates this :

S#9.

Years ago, when ice cream was a bit cheaper than now, a 10year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and asked the waitress, "What does an ice cream sundae cost?"

"Fifty cents," she answered.

The boy reached deep into his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. In her mind, she had "bigger" customers to wait on.

"Well, how much would just plain ice cream be?" the boy asked.

With noticeable irritation, the waitress answered, "Thirty-five cents."

Again the boy slowly counted his money. "Then may I have some plain ice cream in a dish, please?" He gave the waitress the correct amount and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy's dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he had had enough money for the sundae, but sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip

(adapted from *A Lifetime of Success*, by Pat Williams).

C. Only God can judge because only God can look into the heart of a person. S#10.

Heb. 4: 12 – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

II. Not all judgment is forbidden, in fact, some are required.

S#11.

A. Some judging occurs in the flow of life ?

1. When we must evaluate another person, it can never be just be appearance.

- a. **John 7: 24** – Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

S#12.

- b. **John 8: 15** – You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.

16 "But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me.

2. **Notice :** Jesus associated correct "judgment" with multiple witnesses.
True judgment cannot be a personal opinion, even by Jesus.

B. The fact that " wise" judgment is required implies that there is unwise judgment.

1. Bro. James reinforces the teaching of John.

- a. **James 2: 1** – My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. **2** For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, **3** and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the 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?

S#13.

- b. Skin is but a wrapper in which a person is wrapped.

- 1) Some wrappers fit tight and smooth, but others are so loose they wrinkle.
 - 2) The skin wrappers come in a variety of colors.

- c. The color or condition of the wrapper has no bearing on the value inside.

2. Thus, Judging by outward appearance is an example of unwise judgment

III. Some judgment is essential, but other judgment is forbidden.**S#14.****A. Christians are forbidden from judging the opinions of other brethren.**

1. **Rom. 14:1** – Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. **S#15.**
 - 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.
2. Some brethren believe some weird things, but we are not to think less of them for it.
 - a. Everyone in the family needs to feel loved and accepted.
 - b. Brethren cannot grow unless they feel free to discuss their beliefs/questions.
 - c. When debate occurs over a matter of opinion, both should leave feeling loved.
3. The scripture here is discussing matters of opinion, not doctrine.
 - a. In matters of doctrine we must conform to the teaching of scripture. (**NOT opinion**)
 - b. **Gal. 1: 8** – But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary **S#16.** to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!
 - c. No matter what I think should be or what I like, when God speaks I must listen.
4. We live in an era when people think they ought to have a say in God's doctrine.
 - a. They'll ignore sound hermeneutics and take verses out of context to twist scripture.
II Pet. 3: 16 – as also in all his (*Paul's*) letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
 - b. First there were denominations because people could not agree, now there are community churches because brethren can't get along with their denomination.

B. When God has spoken we must agree with Him, but He has not spoken about all.

1. We are to assemble on the first day of the week and we sing, but there is no guidance about the number of songs we sing.
2. However, we're given a direct command to sing and make the melody in our hearts.
Eph. 5:19 – speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **S#17.**
singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father
3. Notice the specific commands :
 - a. “singing”
 - b. “making melody with your heart”

- c. The singing involves the physical action
- d. The melody involves the heart / the emotion / one's spirit.

S#18.

* *Many today want to twist this command to “sing the words and play the melody.”*

IV. Properly evaluating things which are observable and provable is judging, but it is not wrong.

S#19.

A. We are commanded to confront and judge grave mortal sins.

1. **I Cor. 5: 1** – It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and **S#20.** immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. **2** You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. **3** For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **5** I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
2. Notice that the Corinthian brethren were rebuked for NOT judging evil.

B. Jesus himself gave us the procedure for making such judgments.

1. **Matt. 18: 15** – If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he **S#21** listens to you, you have won your brother. **16** "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. **17** "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
 2. This kind of judgment is a command, not a suggestion.
 3. But this type of judgment is ONLY for those in the church.
- I Cor. 5: 12** – For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **S#22.**
Do you not judge those who are within the church?

C. We can see obvious wrongs being committed in these street riots.

S#23.

1. We can see that throwing bricks at police and burning buildings is wrong.
2. We cannot make a judgment about the motivation of the rioters.

S#24.

D. We know that all outside of Christ are lost, separated from God, no hope.

1. **Eph 2:12** – ... having no hope and without God in the world.
2. **John 14: 6** – Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
3. I say this without judgment .. If you are outside Christ, you have NO hope of Heaven

Lesson Text :**Matthew 7: 1-5**

1 Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 " Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

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 to God." 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. 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.