

## OVERCOMING HARSH JUDGMENTS & FAULT FINDING

Text: Matthew 7:1-2; James 4:11

### I. THERE ARE 2 TYPES OF JUDGING. NOT ALL JUDGING IS FORBIDDEN.

#### A. Judging not forbidden.

1. Judging by civil courts, Rom. 13:1-7
2. Examination of fruits.

Matt. 7:1-6, 15-20, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; & with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, & then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye. Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, & turn and tear you in pieces..." "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?"

3. Disapproving faults in others, Gal 6:1; JS 5:19-20
4. Preaching that rebukes error, 2 Tim 3:16-17; 4:2
5. Marking false teachers, Rom 16:17
6. Corrective discipline, 1 Cor 5:1-3

#### B. The kind of judging that is forbidden.

1. McGarvey: All judging from surmise or from insufficient premises, or from ill will.
2. Guy Woods: To impute unworthy motives to others, to put the worst possible interpretation on their words & deeds.
3. Thus, as context demands: harsh, hasty, unfounded, uncharitable, malicious, slanderous, ill-natured judgment.

### II. LET US NOTE SOME OF THE CAUSES OF HARSH JUDGMENTS.

- A. An effort to draw attention away from one's own sins, John 12:5-6, why ointment not sold?
- B. Effort to justify self, 2 Cor 10:12, compare self with self...

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another, you condemn yourself, for you practice the same things. (Rom 2:1).

- C. Envy & hatred. 1 John 3:15, whoever hates...

### III. THE PLANK LADEN SPECK HUNTER IS WORSE THAN HIS VICTIM.

- A. Note difference between speck & plank.
- B. The speck hunter is a hypocrite, MT 7:5. Not to help the person criticized.

### IV. SOME THINGS TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE JUDGING ANOTHER.

- A. Are you certain that you have all the facts?
- B. Are you capable of being impartial?
- C. Many suppositions are not true.
  1. Eli thought Hannah was drunk, 1 Sam 1:13
  2. The apostles accused of drunkenness, Acts 2:13
  3. Jesus accused of blasphemy, Mark 2:7
  4. Whole town judged, John 1:46

#### D. Judgment of motives must be left to the Lord.

The Lord does not see as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Sam 16:7).

### V. OVERCOMING HARSH JUDGMENTS.

- A. Love. 1 Pet 4:5, covers a multitude of sins...
- B. Remember that judging is often an indictment of one's own attitude or motive.
- C. Practicing self-examination will help one be more charitable toward others.
- D. Apply the olden rule, Matt. 7:12.
- E. Try to notice the good in others. This will help you be more understanding of their faults, Phil 4:8.
- F. Ask God to help you overcome the sin of judging.
- G. Consider the harm you may do if your judgment is wrong.
- H. Remember that continual fault-finding will hurt you more than it hurts your victims.
- I. Finally, remember that the unmerciful judge will receive judgment without mercy. James 2:12-13; Gal 6:7-8; Matt 7:2.

CONCLUSION: Let us again emphasize that there is some judging that we MUST practice. There are discernments we must make daily, but let us practice self-examination & avoid the harsh judgments and fault-finding that are contrary to the spirit & will of Christ.