

CHIEF MINISTRIES

June 2020

It is one of the most abused quotes of Jesus: *“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”* (Matthew 7:1-2).

Many big-time pastors claim this is directing us to speak life and never tell people they are wrong. In some of their manuals they direct pastors/teachers never to use “negative” Scriptures or to even avoid quoting the Bible if you want to see quick growth.

When I get a chance to listen to Christian speakers or singers on talk shows, they deflect questions about hell, homosexuality, Jesus as the only way to salvation, abortion, same-sex marriage. They’ll say, “Jesus told me not to judge.” Funny thing, left wing liberals in politics (people running [or trying] to run) our country speak the same thing.

What both Christian celebrities and left-wing liberals are actually claiming that Jesus said we are never to tell anyone they are wrong. This is an odd conclusion for the left (non-conservatives i.e. the Democratic Party) since they are busy finding fault with almost everything. But they have since cleared up the confusion by telling us, “we can judge but you can’t.”

If Jesus meant that we are never to tell anyone that they are wrong, then there is a real problem and that is impossible to obey. If you tell me not to judge, you are telling me I am wrong, ergo you are judging. When any popular preacher refuses to answer hard questions by saying, “Jesus told me not to judge,” he is judging his brethren. He is throwing them under the bus. He is distancing himself from preachers who draw moral conclusions from the Bible. He is saying they are disobeying Jesus.

The only way you could obey this is by never speaking. Any firm opinion infers that others are wrong. Check your own reaction to what I just wrote. Some of you are reading this and saying, “Chief, you are wrong about this.” Hello!!

The problem goes much deeper. If Jesus is telling us never to tell anyone that they are wrong, then there is a glaring contradiction. He goes on in that chapter to call people dogs, pigs, ravenous wolves, and even says His audience is evil.

“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces” (Matthew 7:6).

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11).

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15).

Clearly, Jesus means something else. So, what does He mean?

Matthew 7 is the final installment of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus is continuing His rebuke of the Pharisees. They have set themselves up as authorities and have claimed their traditions to be equal to God's law. Matthew 5:19 says, *"And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

The Pharisees were playing God. They were also overruling the laws and impersonating officers of the court. In rebuking them, He was not just saying, "judge not," He was saying, "Don't be a judge." Don't impersonate an officer of the court by rendering verdicts – verdicts that are your opinion and not the law or the word of God. You have no authority to do this. Hence the preacher said, "My opinion doesn't matter, but here's what the Word of God says."

When someone calls out sin, it must never be a private opinion. He or she must faithfully pass on the verdict of God and do it in fear and trembling and you better not be involved in the very things you're calling out!

This explains the consequence of judging in verse 2. *"For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."* impersonating a cop has dire consequences, how much more impersonating God.

Jesus warns us not to assume God's decision to condemn the guilty. This was never meant as a license to stop discerning truth from error. Jesus does not oppose correcting people – only offering correction in the wrong spirit. We shouldn't sit in the judgment seat to make our word a law to everybody.

What should be our attitude in offering correction? Not only does Jesus explain that, here we find proof – when our spirit is right, it is our duty to bring correction. Matthew 7:4-5 says, *"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, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

If our first instinct is to see faults in others first – if we think they have the plank and we have the spec – if we sit in a service hearing a powerful word and think, "I wish John could have heard this; man he needs it," we are in error. If our instinct is not to check our own heart first, watch out! Jonathan Edwards said, "A true saint is suspicious of nothing more than his own heart."

We are ready to bring correction when we have first allowed God to correct us. We are ready to bring correction when the heart of the Father for a sinner is bigger than our disgust at their sin.

When we look at the lost around us, the addicts, the foulmouthed, the liars, the manipulators, con-men, sexually perverse, etc. and see how Satan has disfigured these lives through these sins – lives that otherwise might have been beautiful – and we feel the tragedy, then, we are ready to offer life.

Today, some churches – think of there where you attend – are committing a great crime against the Holy Spirit. Pastors, teachers, self-appointed emcees have placed their opinion above the Word of God. Their priorities have filtered out the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told us a central mission of the Holy Spirit: *"And when He has come, He will correct the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"* (John 16:8). Vital corrections and prophetic warnings of the Holy Spirit meant to save a nation were filtered out by a fabricated truce with sin.

In the process, they have created monsters – self-absorbed believers who are ignorant of the Bible, disarmed from combat, and useless in the crusade to bring people back to God.

Corban is a hideous example of what prompted Jesus to say, "judge not." The Pharisees devised a way to appeal to greed by inventing corban. Corban is a law whereby you can derate your wealth to God after you die but use it now. This vile loophole was used to avoid the commandment to honor your father and mother. A man could say to his parents, "The money I was using to help you is now Corban. I don't have to pay anymore because it is devoted to God." This impoverished the elderly. *"He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and; 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'whosoever says to his father or mother, "whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God" – then he need not honor his father or mother? Thus, you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition"* (Matthew 15:3-6). Corban got them out of a moral obligation of Jewish law.

How does that differ today from pastors/leaders who offer loopholes to get Christians out of their duties to holiness, revival and witnessing? Remember when you hear them say "Jesus told me not to judge," they are doing the judging. *"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment"* (John 7:24).

Now, the greatest danger of these end times takes me to the National Mall in Washington DC and being somewhat overcome by the majesty, grandeur, and power of the United States. The iconic Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Capital Building, and the White House. It feels powerful when you're there to experience them. And permanent. Yet, I think of the time that the disciples walked among the capital buildings in Jerusalem that no doubt evoked the same kind of awe as they were dumbfounded by the buildings, Jesus said, arguably the most shocking thing He ever said to them: *"Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said, to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."* (Matthew 24:1-2).

This prediction racked them to the core. It meant the destruction of the Jewish state. No way could these buildings be destroyed unless some Army had first conquered the nation. In the same way, if these monuments of honor and power in Washington DC were to be toppled until not one stone could be left upon another – it would mean that America is no more.

The disciples sheepishly asked for a timetable. *"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when these things will be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?'"* (Matthew 24:3).

Instead of giving them a date, He solemnly warns them of the greatest danger of the last days. What Jesus says must become the watchword for you in this chaotic time.

"And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you'." (Matthew 24:4).

Why is discernment at the top of Jesus's list of things to do to prepare for the last days? Shouldn't there be something else we do first? Shouldn't they have been instructed to store food and do fire drills and wear masks and social distance and develop escape scenarios? Why discernment?

The answer is quite clear and simple. The main danger in the last days is being deceived. Satan has saved his best lies for this moment – a moment when he can deceive the Army of God into abandoning the front lines. How silly to believe that the devil would confuse the secular world so as to call evil good and good evil, yet not try the same thing within the church. Hasn't the enemy tricked us into doing exactly what we should not be doing? We are reveling in doctrines of entitlement that makes us flabby, indecisive, and easily offended – in a time that calls for humility, service, discipline and alertness.

This modern crime against the Holy Spirit has us believing things that are of God, are of the devil, and vice versa. Not judging righteously can mean you are refusing to see how God is working in your area, in our nation. And I hate to go there, but I've got to go there.

There are Christians who hate Trump. They suddenly developed a standard for presidents that no one ever had before. When you talk to them, they will tell you their newfound standard for voting – perfection. (I understand it's mostly nonvoting felons that are reading this, I'm just asking you to regard the principle of the matter) if we were looking for perfection, no one would have ever voted for any president – all the way back to George Washington (he was a Freemason).

The fact is we must discern the purposes of God for Donald Trump and for our nation.

Are you so set in your resentment that you can't see how clearly the battle lines are drawn?

What? You don't understand? From Nancy Pelosi to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Democrats have vowed to open border, seize guns, redistribute wealth, skyrocket taxes, and force the "church" to evolve. The "church" still does not see the danger, and that itself is the danger. These dumb political ideas are not scriptural. They are at war with Christianity in many ways. They cost Christian bakers their business, get believers fired in Silicon Valley; it can get students expelled from school. It's why men in sexy women's clothes are reading to children at Barnes & Noble's (bookstores). It's why were accused of hate speech – speech that is simply the normal language of the church. Politics is why tax dollars fund abortion. The Democratic Party left God and you. They told the church to get out. They openly booed God and Israel at their convention. They champion everything your Bible condemns. What part of that is still unclear to you?

Staying out of politics is a recent trend for the church. To hear some popular preachers, you'd think the church was never led by God to be involved in politics.

Yet, if there is a decay of consciences, the pulpit is responsible for it. If the public press lacks moral discernment, the pulpit is responsible for it. If the church is degenerate and worldly, the pulpit is responsible for it. If the world loses its interest in Christianity, the pulpit is responsible for it. If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it. If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it. What's happening in your pulpit?

Peter violated a direct order from a rogue civil authority.

