

SOTM18 – Judgment In The Kingdom Of God

Matthew 7:1-6 Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. (3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite, **first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.** (6) Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Because of not understanding the truth of this passage, it has been used more than any other scripture by believers and non-believers alike as an excuse ... a copout ... to refuse correction in righteousness and holy living. *“Don't you judge me! Jesus said to judge not so ... don't you judge me.”* Yet the real purpose of this passage is in verse 5 ... **“First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”** When understood in context, this passage is about your own mortification and transformation, and then ministry to **HELP others**. Say this with me, **“Scriptural judgment is to HELP OTHERS ... not to exalt me.”**

There are many people who have a critical spirit who love to set themselves up as a self-appointed judge over people. It is amazing to me that when people first begin to pray, how often they have a “word of correction for others.” Dear heart, the Holy Spirit is first going to have “words of correction ... for YOU” long before He will begin using you to correct others. Deal with your beams first, then He will use you to help others with their notes.

The only way to understand this passage is to keep all of the context of the Sermon On The Mount in mind from the beginning of the teachings until now. Remember, Jesus is teaching the Kingdom of God. They could not be born again yet, but we have been. Jesus is teaching these lessons prophetically to us ... we who have been born again as children of God. These lessons are “Kingdom Living 101” for children of God who know they are on temporary assignment to planet earth for the purpose of establishing God's kingdom in the here and now.

We live in the kingdom of God. It is “in the world” but is not “of the world.” If believers break man's law on earth, then the world has the right to judge the man and to impose

punishment. Peter warned about this specifically in his epistle, that we should never be found guilty of such crimes against man:

1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Paul also warned us that the policeman in the world system is God's servant and he has every right to punish believers and non-believers if they do that which is evil. He "bears not the sword in vain."

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; **for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**

But the world will not ... and cannot ... judge believers according to righteousness. The world knows nothing of the righteousness of God. Just because something is legal according to the world system, that does not make it legal in God's kingdom. For example, fornication between consenting adults is legal in this county. The world will not judge it. The world sees nothing wrong with it. But it is illegal in the kingdom of God and the church MUST judge it.

This is precisely why Paul so severely reprimanded the leadership at the church of Corinth for not judging the situation when that man had his father's wife. It was openly known that they were sleeping together. It was such a horrible sin that even the heathen do not allow it, yet the leadership of the church was not judging the situation. The man and his stepmom (we hope) were still coming to church, lifting their hands in worship, acting as though they were in good standing with God ... and the church leadership did nothing. What were the sheep to think? That God's grace covers such wickedness? That's what most young people in church today think. I have never seen such a flood of people who are simply living together ... and because of the milk toast, weak kneed, cowardly lack of judgment by the church elders ... they think they are okay with God ... when the Word of God is perfectly clear ... habitual fornicators do not inherit the kingdom of God. They do not go to heaven if they die without repenting. Here is just one witness :

Ephesians 5:3-7 But **fornication**, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (4) Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (5) For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** (6) **Let no man deceive you with**

vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. (7) Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

“Let no man deceive you with vain words.” I don’t care how many preachers on TV, on the internet, on Facebook or any other platform tells you that God’s grace allows you to keep fornicating and still make heaven ... **THEY ARE LIARS! THEY ARE FALSE PROPHETS!** And they will take many people to hell **WITH THEMSELVES!** Knowing this is why the apostle Peter, in that same epistle, in that same chapter writes:

1 Peter 4:17 For the time *is come* that **judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

The kingdom of God, the church on planet earth, must judge itself. The world cannot judge it. The world has no capacity to judge it. The world does not know what righteousness is. The world does not know what sin is. The church must judge itself when it comes to righteousness and holiness. We don’t want to wait until judgment day to find out **then** we should have repented **now**. **Judgment of the church must begin at the house of God.** Notice how Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, **if any man that is called a brother** be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. (12) **For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? (13) But them that are without God judgeth.** Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

God judges the world. We are to judge them that are within ... within what? Within the kingdom of God. If any man is “called a brother” ... who “says he is a Christian” ... and is habitually a fornicator, is covetous (greedy), or a drunkard (just to pick three) ... have no fellowship with them ... and make sure they know why. They are bringing disgrace on the name of Christ and if you fellowship with them ... you will be saying you approve of their sinful lifestyle. You will be bringing disgrace on the name of Christ also.

1. Self-Judgment – The Conscience, The Inner Witness

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

How am I to judge myself? The first method is **the conscience, the inner witness**. When you were born again, God wrote His laws in your mind and in your heart. If you make a practice of keeping your conscience pure and tender before God, your born again

conscience is a safe guide. It is there for the express purpose of helping you judge potential actions. Green light okay. Red light not okay. This is what I like to call “the mechanism of righteousness.”

2. Judged By The Written Word Of God – Convicted By The Spirit Of Truth

Many have disobeyed their God given conscience for so long they have seared their conscience, as with a hot iron. They no longer feel guilty about the sin they are committing. The second method to judge yourself is through the written Word of God. Many people don't like to read the Word of God because it exposes the darkness they are walking in. “The entrance of thy Word bringeth light,” but people love the darkness and will not come to the light of His Word. For example: here is a very “light bringing” passage:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. KJV

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. NKJV

Let's say you claim to be a Christian, but you have been living in fornication with your girlfriend for years. You've been doing it so long you can't hear your conscience condemning you about it anymore. But one day you actually do the unthinkable ... Gasp ... you actually open your bible and you begin to read ... and you read 1 Cor 6:9-10. You say to yourself, “*What? Fornicators do not inherit the kingdom of God?*” LIGHT has exposed your DARKNESS! The Holy Spirit will bring conviction through the Word of God. Conviction will penetrate your consciousness again. You are brought to the necessity of decision AGAIN! The Word of God has given you a fresh opportunity to JUDGE YOURSELF. And if you do, and if you repent, then you either separate from your girlfriend or you will marry her ... wonderful. You have chosen righteousness. You have judged yourself and you will not be judged.

1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

This is the mildest form of being judged by the Lord ... judged by the written Word,

chastened through conviction by the Holy Spirit, and then repentance so you will not be condemned with the world.

3. Judged By A Sincere Fellow Believer

The third way is to be judged by a fellow member of the kingdom of God. A true believer, a true family member, someone who truly has your best interests at heart. (Not a self-appointed judge who wants to appear superior to others.) This is the primary type of judgment Jesus is teaching about in the Sermon On The Mount. This sort of judgment is sorely needed in the church today, but in order to do it in a godly manner, Jesus gives strict qualifications:

Matthew 7:1-2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

The sword cuts both ways. If you judge others, know ahead of time, the same measure of judgment is going to be measured to you also. That does not mean we are to never rightly discern situations. What it means is explained in the next few verses:

Matthew 7:3-5 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? (5) Thou **hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Hypocrites are not qualified to judge others. If you watch pornography, you are not qualified to judge others about watching pornography. If you get drunk, you cannot judge drunkenness in others. If you are a drug abuser, you are not qualified to help people get free from drugs. The message of Christ in this passage is ... **JUDGE YOURSELF FIRST! The message is not ... don't judge yourself ... keep committing all of these sins yourself ... and that way you never have to judge others for their sins. NO! Judge yourself, get free yourself and stay free, then the Lord can use you to help others get free.** Pay attention to what Jesus said at the end of this teaching ... "**THEN shall you see clearly to cast out the mote out of they brother's eye.**" That is the purpose ... to help your brother get free. In order to do that ... get free yourself **FIRST!**

Matthew 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

This is a perfect case of how the commentaries are useless. If you read nine

commentaries, you will get nine different “opinions” of what Jesus means by this statement. Thank God for the “laws of meditation” taught to us by Pastor Dave. You must leave every verse in its context. The subject matter is “righteous judgment” that helps others get free. This statement has to make sense in that light.

Also, thank God for the teachings of pastor Dave on “assimilation” of the books of the Bible. That is how the revelation knowledge in one book will often help unlock a difficult passage on the same subject in another book. As I continued to meditate, and assimilate, and pray over the years ... two passages kept floating up with me. One of them was very unexpected ... I don’t think I ever would have thought of it on my own without having assimilated all of the books of the New Testament. It is:

2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The **dog** is turned to his own vomit again; and the **sow** that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Notice it makes reference to the same two things Jesus mentioned ... the **dog** and the **swine**. The second passage was from the book of Proverbs:

Proverbs 9:7-8 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man* getteth himself a blot. (8) **Reprove not a scorner**, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Many commentaries say that the person referred to by Peter is a person who was never born again in the first place. They say that because they want to believe in the false doctrine of, “once saved, always saved.” But that is not what Peter says,

2 Peter 2:20-22 For if **after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (21) For it had been better for them not to have **known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it,** to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. (22) But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, **The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.**

The commentators say, “*They always had the nature of the dog and the swine. They were never changed.*” The truth is ... they were changed. They had escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. They had known the way of righteousness.

IT IS THE FLESH THAT RETAINS THE NATURE OF THE DOG AND THE SWINE. THE FLESH DOES NOT GET BORN AGAIN. ITS NATURE DOES NOT CHANGE. IT MUST BE PUT ON THE CROSS EVERY SINGLE DAY.

These men had fallen back into **living after the flesh** instead of continuing to **walk in the spirit**. No doubt God gave them space to repent. He even gave Jezebel's followers space to repent in the book of Revelation. But "space to repent" does not mean forever.

Romans 8:12-13 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh [the dog, the swine], to live according to the flesh [the dog, the swine]. (13) For if you live according to the flesh [the dog, the swine] you will die; but if by the [s]Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body [the dog, the swine], you will live. It is your reborn human spirit that mortifies the body ... not the Holy Spirit.

But you want to see the ultimate in judgment?

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over** to a **reprobate** mind, to do those things which are not convenient. KJV

Romans 1:28 And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, **God gave them over** to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome. AMPLIFIED BIBLE

After mercy, patience, and long suffering ... eventually God "gave them over" to do that which they truly loved ... the gratification of the flesh [the dog, the swine]. It's not that God would not take them back. There is simply nothing in them that wants to come back. That is the ultimate judgment. Avoid it at all costs. Let us be like Paul who said:

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body [the dog, the swine], and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Greek "castaway" is the same word translated "reprobate" in Romans 1:28. Paul is saying, [paraphrased] *I will keep my body under because I never want to suffer the ultimate judgment of being turned over to a reprobate mind.*

Of course we are to help backsliders if they can be helped.

Jude 1:22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference: (23) And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; (20) Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Personally, I'm working with several people who fall into that category right now. But we must also be led by the Holy Spirit. There are those who have been turned over to a reprobate mind and there is NOTHING you can do to win them back. If they have become scorers of the Gospel, you cast your pearls before them if you want to, but don't be surprised if they turn and rend you.

Jesus said ... do not give that which is holy unto dogs. Do not cast your pearls before swine. Be led by the Spirit where your efforts can be fruitful.