

Hasty Judgment

by Sam Willcut

A couple arrived at the theater and proceeded to their seats. As they went down the aisle, they arrived at their seats only to find a man sprawled over them. The wife looked at her tickets to confirm that they are indeed at the right place, and said to the man, "Sir, you must be mistaken—these are our seats." He barely noticed them and grunted in their general direction. She spoke louder with the same words, threatening to get the manager, but to no avail. The couple brought back the manager, who spoke to the man, "Sir, you are in the wrong seats. These seats belong to these customers. Where is your ticket?" The man grunted at the manager with no inclination of moving. The manager threatened him, "If you do not move immediately, I will call the police!" The man did not even stir. The manager left and brought back a police officer, who saw the man sprawled over the respective seats. He bent down and asked the man, "What is your problem?" Finally, the man barely whispered, "My problem is that I fell out of the balcony!"

Often times, we are quick to judge others. Jesus warns us in the Sermon on the Mount,

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

Yet, so many people misinterpret and misquote these verses. As the passage continues and the context declares, Jesus is not condemning the act of judging in and of itself, but of hypercritical judging. To state the case in point, in the verses that follow this admonition, Jesus said,

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. (Matt. 7:6)

Thus, one would have to make a call of judgment to determine who are considered dogs or swine.

Elsewhere, Jesus also declared, "*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment*" (John 7:24). This ought to be the rule of our lives. Far too often, we are quick with our judgment based upon appearance—in such, we are not to be a "respector of persons" (cf. James 2:1). Rather than being hasty with our judgment, we are to wait for all of the facts. Only then can we make the proper judgment. The inspired wise man Solomon declared,

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly... Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him. (Prov. 14:29; 29:20)

Be careful about how you judge!

Troubled? Rest in Jesus

by Sam Willcut

During a personal conversation with His disciples, Jesus responded to a statement Thomas made about the way to heaven: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”* (John 14:6). Many have used the first six verses of John 14 for comfort and hope, especially during times of distress and discouragement; in fact, this is the exact context of this passage, for Jesus began this by stating, *“Let not your heart be troubled...”* (14:1). Thus, we can recall these verses to cheer us whenever our hearts are troubled. Consider the threefold declaration of John 14:6 concerning what He just said in its context.

Jesus proclaimed that He is “the way”—*“... believe in God, believe also in me”* (John 14:1). From Adam to the present day, the way to salvation by man has always been by faith.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6)

The Greek word for “way” is the word *hodos*, which according to Strong’s Greek Dictionary, means “a road; by implication, a progress; figuratively, a mode or means—journey, (high-) way.” It is the same word Jesus used in the Parable of the Sower when He first mentioned seed falling by “the way side” (Matt. 13:4). Jesus has already paved this way through His sacrificial death (cf. Eph. 2:18; Heb. 9:28; 10:20). Therefore, with the understanding being our journey and pathway on the narrow and troublesome “way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (cf. Matt. 7:14), the only way to travel such is by developing a lifestyle of faith in God.

Jesus proclaimed that He is “the truth”—*“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you”* (John 14:2). It is as if Jesus reinforces the fact that what He is saying is indeed

factual, and they can put their trust in Him because of His integrity. We are able to do this because it is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18). Therefore, the message that He declares is always and only full of truth (cf. John 1:14, 17). Whether or not the Pharisees and Herodians believed what they said, the fact is that what they told Jesus was factual: *“Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth”* (Matt. 22:16). The apostle John declares,

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)



As such, Jesus is the antithesis of Satan and his followers, who “abode not in the truth” (cf. John 8:44-46). In answering one of Pilate’s questions, Jesus stated that He came into the world “that I should bear witness unto the

truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:37). Many have responded in such fashion as Pilate did: “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Without a proper examination of the divine scriptures, many will fail to understand the wonderful truths that Jesus came to give.

Jesus proclaimed that He is “the life”—“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3). The only real life worth living is in preparation for an eternal life with Jesus in a place that He is preparing for all of His faithful brethren. To emphasize this, Jesus told Martha, *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* (John 11:25). Therefore, there is a beautiful correlation between “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6) and with what He said previously about the comforting message of heaven.

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Prayer List

Velma McDougald has been admitted to the William P. Clements University Hospital in Dallas, room 1062.

Veran Barrett's cataract surgery went very smoothly and she is doing very well.

Melissa Armstrong has returned home and is being cared for by Home Health.

Barbara Wrinkle had surgery last week and is recovering.

Continue to Remember: Bill Abercrombie, Jim Bess, Don Bowen, Melba & Eleanor Bower, Jo Ann Chambers, Bobby Compton, Gayle Garner, Bud Moore, Ruth Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Irene Ross, Helen Strange, Pat Wheat, Alyce Barnes, Earlean Bailey, Bonnie Ellison, Meagan Gould, Dalton McCullough, Brenda Russell.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Josh Moehring, Ryan Payne, Devin Peterson, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, Payton Weaver, and Kye White.

Announcements

Congratulations to James & Emily Cammock on the birth of their new baby. If you'd like to contribute a monetary gift, see Julie Dilbeck or David Shastid by March 29.

All Ladies, especially those with March birthdays, are invited to join the Ladies' Bible Class for lunch this Wednesday at 11:30 at Cotton Patch.

Colleyville Church of Christ has rescheduled their ladies day to Saturday, March 21. Lieh Brumback will speak on "Wait Upon the Lord." Registration begins at 8:30. Lunch will be provided.

Morton St. Church of Christ in Denison is hosting a ladies' day Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 AM. Kirsten Watt will speak on "When Life Gives You Lemons."

The Howe Congregation is hosting a Men's Day Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 am. Greg Dismuke will address "The Church: What Do You Seek?"

Save the Date! Westhill Ladies' Day Saturday, April 11. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Sarah Fallis will speak on "The King and I." Register online or sign up in the foyer.

We're Taking a Bus to the Southwest Lectures in Austin, Tuesday, April 14. We will leave at 6:00 AM and return around midnight. Please, sign up in the foyer if you'd like to go. We need at least 8 to sign up to make the trip.

Birthdays This Week:

- March 9 - Beverly Heathcote
- March 10 - Colton Stewart, Ellie Stewart
- March 14 - Pat Ellis, Percell Milton

Next Week's Bible Class

1 Samuel 2:12 - 3
God Calls Samuel

Records for March 1, 2015

Bible Class	188
AM Worship	249
PM Worship	146
Wednesday	119
Contribution	\$10,251.00

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Mark Blaylock
Opening Prayer	Paul Slaughter
Communion Leader	Zach Drain
Communion Servers	
James Ainsworth	Wade Braly
David Dilbeck	Brian Hand
James Horn	Clay Jackson
Percell Milton	Greg Olsen
James Olsen	Billy Roughton
Jose Sosa	Justin Williams
Closing Prayer	Dan Gibson
Nursery	Peyton Jennings & Martha Olsen
PM Song Leader	Cory Myers
PM Opening Prayer	Micah Haden
PM Closing Prayer	Mike Wylie
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Wed. Devo	Darrell Olsen
March Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228