

**Sunday AM - Session 1 - 6/17/2012**  
**"Judging, Right or Wrong" – James 4:11**

Reading:

Read James 4:7-11

In James 4:7-10 there are 10 aorist imperative verbs:

Verse 7: SUBMIT, RESIST

Verse 8: DRAW NEAR, CLEANSE, PURIFY

Verse 9: LAMENT, MOURN, WEEP, LET your laughter BE TURNED to mourning... joy to dejection

Verse 10: BE HUMBLLED

Verse 11:

*Speak not evil, one of another brothers. The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

Part a:

*Speak not evil, one of another brothers.*

KATA = down + LALEO = speak; This means literally to speak down, translated *speak evil*.

ME - negative adverb = *no* or *do not*, combined with the imperative verb KATALALEO (*DO NOT SPEAK DOWN*); this means do not *speak down* on someone, or slander them. This means to STOP doing what so many of the people are doing; since this is not a strong negative adverb, it means that the ones who are to STOP must use their own choice in stopping their talking down of fellow believers.

Part b:

*"The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law."*

The word "law" appears in the Greek as NOMON (when used as the direct object of the sentence), NOMOU (showing possession), or NOMOS (when used as the subject of the sentence). The first occurrence uses NOMOU, which shows *possession*; the 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence uses NOMON, showing it is the direct object.

The last word in the (b) part of the verse is KRINO, translated "judge".

Part c:

*If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

KRINO means to judge. Is this word too harsh? Should we use "evaluate" or "discerning" instead? It's often translated either way in God's Word. In 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, the word KRINO has a prefix "ANA" (ANAKRINO).

*"But the natural man does not receive the things of God, because they are foolishness to him because they are spiritually discerned (ANAKRINO). But he that is spiritual judges (ANAKRINO) all things, yet he himself is judged by no man."*

A person saturated with the Truth is able to discern. The translations for KRINO of "judging" and "discerning" seem to be synonymous in the Bible. We should know that when we judge, it is based what *we know*, which *may not be based upon all the facts*. If we are filled with human viewpoint, it certainly will not be based on all the facts. Then judging becomes the *fruit of our own self-righteousness!* Self is not necessarily always right.

FROM this word KRINO comes the word KRITES (critical). Also from this word comes the word KRISIS (crisis). Thus our judging can simply be nothing more than criticism, which can then become a source of crisis in the life.

One of Satan's primary purposes is to bring crises not only between God and man, but also between believers themselves! We can get into a pattern of analyzing one another and this can lead to very bad decisions.

#### What Does the Word Judge Mean?

1. To form an opinion
2. to hear and to decide
3. to determine or declare after consideration
4. to make estimates as to worth, quality or fitness.
5. to decide the winners of a contest.
6. to judge as the leaders of ancient Israel did during the 400 year period covered by the Book of Judges between the time of Joshua and the ascension of Saul as the first king of Israel.
7. to deliberate
8. to hear and decide in a court of law.
9. Judge is used over 700 times throughout the Bible, again, including the whole book of Judges, when God used judges to lead His people.
10. Is Judging right or wrong? in Matthew 7 we see "do not judge (KRINO) or you will be judged". Taken to an extreme, many feel this means we should never have and hold a position against sin and evil or evaluate things. On the contrary, we often have to evaluate the conduct of others in order to properly channel our own conduct. This original statement by Christ about judgment must not be ripped out of context, otherwise Mathew 7:1 directly contradicts other scriptures, like John 7:24 which extends the fact that we are to judge with "righteous judgment". We are to analyze what is right and what is wrong, based upon the Mind of Christ. Life forces us to make discernments and judgments. So judging can be *right OR wrong!* It's easy to  *dwell on the wrong emphases*, or to see only what is on the surface of an issue.

*If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

We've a responsibility to God, first of all, to judge *SELF*. Then we can begin to see life from God's vantage point. At the Lord's Table, we are to judge ourselves before taking the Eucharist to ensure we are not partaking without being in proper harmony with the Lord.

Look again at verse 11:

*(a) "Speak not evil, one of another brothers. (b) The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law. (c) If [and it is true] you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge."*

Judging: Right or Wrong? The answer is EITHER, depending upon the attitude and viewpoint of the judge; next session, we focus on when it is wrong; Wednesday night, we will focus on when it is right.