

Wed PM – 6/20/2012

"When Judging is Right" – James 4:11

Read James 4:1-11

Looking at the 3 parts of verse 11:

a) *Speak not evil, one of another brothers* KATA = down + LALEO = speak; this means literally to speak down, translated *speaking evil*, (PAP n.m.s of KATALALEO)

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 STOP DOING what you are already doing.

b) *The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law.* This same word KATALALEO is used in a slightly different form (KATALALON) than in the (a) part (KATALALEITE); The word LAW is used the first time in the nominative case (NOMOU), the second time in the accusative case (NOMON).

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

KRINO means to judge. In 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, the word KRINO has a prefix "ANA", thus the word is 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.

Judges ruled the people of ancient Israel during a 400-year period (Book of Judges); in recent studies, we have seen an emphasis of judging wrongly and rightly.

Review: You Judge Wrongly...

1. When it is out of jealousy, bitterness, or selfish ambition
2. When you assume you know all the facts
3. When you set up human standards, rather than God's standards to judge and discern
4. If we do not judge ourselves *first*, such as when we are about to partake in the Lord's Table
5. When you share confidential or personal information with the wrong intent.
6. When you malign someone over a minor or insignificant issue, often turning it into a mountain of false issues.
7. When you consider yourself qualified to make an authoritative pronouncement about someone's eternal destiny. *God and God alone* knows the heart of each individual. We are never in a position to make such judgment about a person's eternal destiny.

When Judging is Right:

Matthew 7:1 tells us not to judge [improperly] lest we be judged. But in context with the rest of God's Word, we should have *enough concern to discern* (Psalm 37:30); we are to have proper discernment, alertness about those things that are improper and those things that are evil (Amos 5:14, 15). How can you hate the evil, or love the good if you refuse to have proper judgement. Failure to do so is actually sin (Isaiah 59:8), and causes "crooked paths", and no understanding of God's peace. In 1 Corinthians 1:10 Paul tells us to be perfectly joined together in the same mind in the same judgment and discernment. Look at 1 Corinthians 2:15 - Paul rebukes people for having no judgment, and later proclaims "shame" on those who fail to properly judge (1 Cor 6:1-5). Judging is *not necessarily a sin*. Satan wants us *not* to have the ability to discern - he wants us to cherry-pick Matthew 7:1 out of context, and to judge and discern *nothing*. If judging were always wrong, Paul would need to confess for the previously named pronouncements. If all judging is wrong, how can we obey the scriptures by using *discernment* in Romans 16:17-18, 2 Timothy 3:5, 6, Malachi 3:18, and Revelation 2:2?

Judging is right...

1. In John 7:24 God gives us the rule for discernment.
2. When we discern *scripturally and Biblically* (Psalm 37:30). A believer right with God will not refuse to judge and use proper discernment. How can we hate the evil, and love the good (AGATHOS - intrinsic, God's good)? The right kind of judging pleases God, and displeases Satan; the wrong kind of judging displeases God and pleases Satan. Satan has lied to us, causing people to whine and quote Matthew 7:1 when they are properly rebuked.
3. We are not to judge or discern when the Bible is silent on an issue. Never make more of a matter than God does! We don't want to make issues about the insignificant (Colossians 2:16).
4. Pray for the ability to evaluate properly (1 Kings 3:9 - Solomon prays for an understanding heart that he could discern good from bad; James 1:5 - Pray for good judging ability).
5. If you are going to judge, discern and evaluate, do so *fairly, mercifully, compassionately, and TRUTHFULLY*. Our standards should never be our emotions, our traditions or our opinions. Right or wrong should always be determined by *what God's Word says*.
6. Judge yourself *thoroughly FIRST*.
7. If judging is wrong, then Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 6:17 or 2 Tim 3:5, 6 shouldn't be obeyed. We know this is not true. Malachi 3:18 tells us to turn and discern between the righteous and the wicked, those serving God and those not serving God. Is it wrong to evaluate and discern??? NO!!!
8. If the Bible is clear about anything, it is clear about the responsibility of the believer seeing from the vantage point of God. Satan lies to us because he hates us to *know, believe, and execute ALL* of God's Word.

There is only ONE Law-Giver and Judge, One who is able to save, and able to destroy. There is ONE Alpha and Omega! "Who are we to judge our neighbor?" Read the rest of this passage (James 4:12 and following), and we see judging in the proper perspective! Our life is but a vapor; while making our plans, we need to make our 1st responsibility to be right with God.

We do not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future.