

Now, let's pray. Lord Jesus, I come to Your Throne of Mercy, asking for Your forgiveness for my sin of judging _____. LORD, I repent and plead Your precious blood on my sin. I confess that You are the judge of the whole Earth, not me. Please create in me a clean heart to walk in love, because love does not take into account a wrong suffered! LORD, I ask You to forgive me of all unforgiveness, judgements, and murmuring I have had against You and anybody that has hurt me. I choose to forgive them and bless them now. LORD, I confess anger, hate, gossip, and slander that went out of my mouth which exposed that my heart was full of unforgiveness and judgments.

I command all those unclean spirits of fear, anxiety, worry, dread, depression suicide, and sickness to leave me now, in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

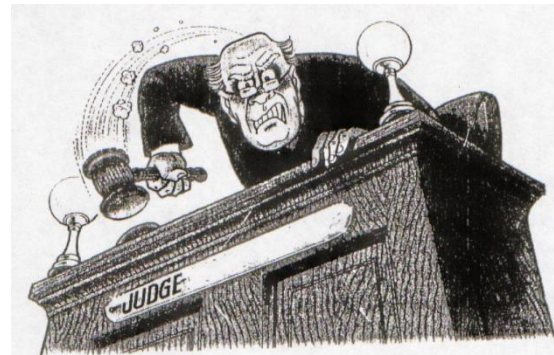
I plead the Blood and the finished work of Calvary over my life.

LORD, I love You with all my heart. I thank You for the Truth that is setting me free now, in Jesus Name.

LORD, I know that I will be tested whether I have spoken empty words or spoken from the true desire of my heart to please You. (Every Word of God is tested – Proverbs 30:5)

Please give me eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to perceive Your unsearchable riches; to hear Your voice, and walk bearing fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness) and find Your rest. AMEN!

ARE YOU THE JUDGE?



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As a child standing at the back fence with my mother as she was talking to our next door neighbor, Mrs. Andrews, I listened as they discussed what happened the day before to Mrs. Summers. She had fallen on her back steps and had broken her right arm. Mrs. Andrews made a derogatory remark about the incident. About a week later Mrs. Andrews fell on her back steps and broke her right arm. Later, I asked my mother about the significance of what Mrs. Andrews had said against Mrs. Summers. Mama quoted what Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-2, "Do not judge lest you be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you." WOW!

Looking back in my life, and what I have seen happen to others, I understood that my mouth had gotten me into a lot of trouble. The Word of God talks about the tongue being like a rudder on a ship in James 3:1-12. It guides us through life by our standard of measure. James goes on to say in James 5:9, "Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves, may not be judged; behold the judge is standing right at the door."

One evening I received a call from a youth pastor asking me to go with him to pray with a lady in his church that had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. She had to stay in bed most of the time. She had gone to doctor after doctor, with no relief. As I was sitting there with this lady, I discerned it had something to do with her mother. As she prayed she said, "Mama, you were always so tired, you never had time for me." As she prayed, Matthew 7:1-2 came to my mind, "by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you." I quoted this to her, her mouth flew open, and she said, "I judged my

mother!" We prayed together, and she repented of judging her parents. Right in the middle of the prayer she was healed and will stay healed unless she goes back to judging others!

In John 20:23 Jesus said, "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." When you forgive, you release the sin, when you judge your parents for their sins (by your standard of measure) that sin will be retained by you. The lady that had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, had judged her mother when she was a young woman. As a teenager without a daddy at home, her mother was working two jobs trying to provide for her children. She would ask her mother to go shopping with her and she would decline because she was so tired from working two jobs. So, she judged her mother for being tired all the time and not being able to spend time with her, then when she was 38 years old the disease of tiredness came upon her. Which was simply "good measure, pressed down, shaken and running over" of her "standard of measure", she had placed on her mother. If you love, you will get love back in good measure. If you give hate, you will get back hate in good measure.

Later, I preached a message called, "Pointing The Finger", in a church in Clarksville, Tennessee. When the altar call was given, a man came up for prayer and confession of sin. He told me how, 23 years ago, he had judged his former wife. While he was in Viet Nam, she started running around on him and gambled away their savings. When he returned home they got a divorce. He could not forgive her for what she had done, especially the gambling. He became her judge! Now, here 23 years later, as a

Remodeling Contractor he tells this story. He had been paid \$1,200.00 cash for a job; sat down at his kitchen table and made out his deposit and wrote checks for all of his bills. The next morning he drove by the Post Office and mailed the bills, on his way to the bank. At the bank, he discovered he had lost his deposit. He searched for it for hours; going back to the Post Office; searching in the mailbox; going back home, looking everywhere and still could not find the money. Then in desperation, he stopped at a bar and gambled, and won \$150.00. He thought that this was the way the LORD would give him his money back! On Friday before the Sunday I preached, he received a notice from the bank for \$1,500.00 dollars in bad checks, and \$1,000.00 in bank charges for the bad checks. It took 23 years for his “standard of measure” to come back to him. Paul, in his letter to the Romans said, *“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.” Romans 2:1*

We prayed with a lady in Hendersonville, Tennessee who had an alcoholic and abusive father. At the age of 16, she married to get out of his house. She hated him and his ways. At the age of 54 she had been married 5 times to men who were alcoholic and abusive. She was like a magnet to the thing she hated because she had judged her father. She was even bitter at her mother for not protecting her! She forgave them all, released them, and is now walking free.

Another lady complained in frustration about her pet peeve, “Why am I always connected to selfish people?” Years ago, she had judged her grandmother for being selfish, then she became, like a magnet to the thing she resented and

judged in her grandmother. Her tongue had parked her ship in many harbors of hurt and disappointment.

The Word of God tells us to judge righteous things; to be a good fruit inspector of right and wrong in God’s eyes, but our problem is, we pass sentence and judge in our heart. So when we judge right and wrong, are we weeping over them with a heart that is broken, feeling sorry for the situation they are in? Knowing, except for the Grace of God, I could be in the same place; captured by the same sin. Also, knowing if I pass sentence I will be there one day. Romans 2:1

OUR JUDGEMENTS FOLLOW US!

Our judgments follow us in everyday life to restaurants, to work, our homes, even in our driving habits. We judge so much, it becomes a habit and part of “who we are”, even though we may have many Godly characteristics, and be totally committed to Jesus. My Pastor would go to a local drive-in restaurant and every time, right in the middle of giving his order on the loud speaker, he would get interrupted and they would get his order wrong. Every time! He had been teaching on judging and realized when he got his order he would grumble to himself and say, “those stupid people, can’t they hear, where do they get their employees?” He would judge those people and predict the outcome. On his next trip there he prayed, “Lord, I have judged these people, and I repent right now!” Now he can give his order and they will listen and get his order right. Now if you go and get your order wrong, no big deal, but when it is a pattern and it happens over and over again, look at your heart and your words.

What is your pet peeve or that incident that really bothers you? Put an ☑ next to the following hurts that you have experienced and let the Holy Spirit expose those disappointments and those wounds and scars, even the hidden ones, that hide behind fear!

☐ The Pain of Rejection: This is often the experience when parents get divorced or the father is a workaholic or parents favor one child over another. The may often speak: “Why can’t you be like your brother (or sister)?” We catch ourselves lusting for approval, striving to please others, and can’t measure-up! So we end up not liking ourselves and develop a harsh attitude with very sensitive feelings. When we sense disapproval from someone, we quickly reject them out of fear of being rejected.

☐ Being Falsely Accused: Stirs-up strong indignation and a desire for justice to be done to the accuser.

☐ The Pain of Being Ridiculed or Mocked: Ridicule does not just attack a person’s actions, it mocks him as a person and is a devastating blow to his self-esteem; especially as a child (i.e. being over-weight, too tall, too short, big ears or big nose, etc.)

☐ Irritability: Rooted in past judgments, situations and circumstances are pressure points or “pet peeves” which build-up an inner tension. You say it doesn’t bother you, however inside you are boiling! Many times we are irritated by people, or even God, and never say anything because it is “not supposed to be that way”, but that still, does not change the way we feel inside. Harboring something that irritates you in your heart is worse than not saying what you “really” want to!

When we have a fault in our own lives we tend to look for that same fault in others. Our alertness to faults in others is an important basis for self-examination. *“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged we are chastened by the LORD, that we should not judge.” 1 Corinthians 11: 31-32*

Has the Holy Spirit spoken to you? Do you know what to do?

- First, examine yourself. Have you been the judge of someone, like your parents, your friends, your business associates? Have you judged God? Have you ever felt He disappointed you?
- Second, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to reveal those you have judged.
- Third, James 5:16 says to confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, to that you may be healed. Get with your pastor, or a Christian friend you can trust and confess the sin of judging.
- Fourth, repent of judging. That does not mean to say the words, and go out and do it again. It means to turn from the sin and stop doing it!
- Then, make restitution if you can, by calling, writing, or just looking at them eyeball to eyeball, and ask them to forgive you for judging them. (*Note) I know these people have hurt you, done you wrong, beaten you out of money, but I am concerned about your heart before the LORD! You will be surprised how humbling yourself allows the Holy Spirit to convict those who have offended you by bringing them to repentance.