

## Mercy and Judgment

### Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Mercy proceeds from humility; it reveals big-heartedness and great faith, and can lead sinners to freedom.

Judgment flows from self-righteousness; it reveals pettiness and lack of character; it leaves sinners in bondage.

If I am judgmental, I am proud of heart; I seek self-justification by comparing myself to others.

If I am merciful, it is because I marvel at my own forgiveness; I compare myself only with God and His Word, which humbles my heart.

I show mercy because without the mercy shown to me, I would be worse than the sinner I am tempted to judge.

A Principle of Judgment:

“The Sins that I can least endure, that sting me like a dart,  
Well, when I’d preached them all to Hell, I found them in my heart.”

### Romans 2:21-23

<sup>21</sup>you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? <sup>22</sup>You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup>You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

### James 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

The same revelation of sin leads one to mercy, and another to judgment.

The deciding factor is simply how close I live to Jesus, who leads me through the hard realities of my own redemption.

Mercy triumphs over judgment, but God triumphs over the judgmental, so choose mercy!

### John 7:24

<sup>24</sup>Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

### Matthew 7:1-5

<sup>7</sup>“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold,

the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Perception is a gift from God, but it is not given for the purpose of Judgment.

It is given so that I can deal with the sin in my own heart, and then help my brother/sister who is struggling, too.

In order to do that, I have to make a judgment against sin and for the righteousness of God, in my own heart first!

Once I am free, I can help another make the same judgment, and walk them out into the liberty I now know.

Judgment would have crushed the broken sinner, and left them hopelessly lost.

Mercy makes me an instrument of grace in the hands of God, and I get to be a deliverer like Jesus!

### **John 8:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and *began* to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees \*brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center *of the court*, <sup>4</sup>they \*said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. <sup>5</sup>Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" <sup>6</sup>They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. <sup>7</sup>But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him *be the first* to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup>Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>When they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center *of the court*. <sup>10</sup>Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" <sup>11</sup>She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."