

## **JUDGE NOT LEST YOU BE JUDGED**

**Statement:** By now we know: Jesus complicates things. His sermon is tough if we take it seriously. Today we add another layer to how Jesus make our lives complicated:

**Judge not lest you be judged. Get rid of Jesus, we can judge people for what they did or didn't do. If we could silence him, erase his sinless life from our minds, things can return to normal.**

**Speaking of Sin...ever since the Garden of Eden, people view sin as "FORBIDDEN FRUIT", the things we can't have or a list of THINGS TO AVOID. Sin is not WHAT WE WANT TO DO but CAN'T; it is what WE SHOULDN'T DO because it will HURT US and hurt us badly. The word sin has fallen on hard times and is ignored by most as an OUTDATED RELIC from the past. It is wise to take sin as seriously as God did when He sent Jesus to die for our sins. It is tragic enough that we sin and fall short of what God expects, but far worse when we use the sins of others against them. The only sin that some people see is "out there", being done by people whom they dislike.**

**PLAYING GOD...in that crowd listening to Jesus were Pharisees who were offended by many of his words. They may have been his main target when he said, "JUDGE NOT" They were self-appointed moral critics who made the lives of ordinary people unbearable. Their judgmental attitudes were evident in every encounter that Jesus had with them. They were, in essence, playing God; anyone who presumes to play God has signed up for the WRONG PART. Jesus says, "JUDGE NOT", but what he left unsaid was, "IT ISN'T YOUR JOB; IT'S MINE" God has his own ideas of GOODNESS/BADNESS. When God judges, there won't be any ERRORS.**

**SHIFTING THE BLAME...for his critics, Jesus left things TOO GRAY; they liked to draw BLACK/WHITE LINES. With Jesus as our judge, his assessment will be complete and fair, based on FACTS and not OUTWARD APPEARANCES. We must make some judgements in life, reflect on what is RIGHT/WRONG, and discern where to draw lines. If we don't STAND FOR SOMETHING, then we will FALL FOR ANYTHING. What we must never do is to sit in judgment of any person. Remember the church sign I mentioned:**

**"Every saint has a past; every sinner has a future"**

**We play both parts. We have a past and yet we also have a future. Knowing that, maybe it effect and inform how we treat others.**