



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

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Tuesday, November 11, 2022

Scripture: John 7:19-24

TITLE: Correct Judgment

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we're going to talk about correct judgment.

We are continuing in the Gospel of John 7:19-24, which reads:

"Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?"

The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?"

Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

It is the middle of the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem, and Jesus is teaching in the temple courtyard about all things having to do with the kingdom of Heaven, sin and righteousness, hypocrisy, and salvation. In the midst of the crowd are both people who believe in Jesus and are ready to crown Him as well as people who despise Jesus and are ready to arrest Him.

The people are making judgments about who this Jesus is. Those who believe Jesus is the Messiah have made the right judgment, while those who want to kill Him, have made the wrong judgment.

Have you ever misjudged a situation? Maybe you've been a bad judge of character or made a terrible decision in a moment of poor judgment. Perhaps you judged that new movie or show to be good based on the trailer, only to find out it didn't live up to the hype. Or have you grabbed something out of the fridge that looked good to eat and upon closer inspection, realized it was rotten or moldy?

Making judgment calls are part of our everyday lives. From the smallest of situations, to moral judgments, to critical events, having the capability to make judgments is part of being made in the image of God.

Here, Jesus teaches us not to make judgments based on appearances, but to make *correct* judgments. For example, even some of those who believed Jesus was the Messiah, because of His miracles and His teachings, had misjudged what the Messiah would accomplish.

However the Pharisees, those who wanted to kill Jesus, had *completely* misjudged Jesus not only as *not* the Messiah, but an imposter and blasphemer who would lead the people astray. Even going so far as to call Him demon-possessed. To them, Jesus' healing of a paralyzed man on the Sabbath broke the Law, and no amount of miracles He performed could convince them He was the Son of God, not even if He were raised from the dead.

These Pharisees were hypocrites. They judged poorly, not wisely, and Jesus contended with them about it. "Has not Moses given you the Law? Yet none of you keeps the law." Who were they to judge Jesus as a lawbreaker when they themselves were notorious breakers of it? They misjudged their own status as keepers of the law.

Jesus, as God, knows all things and cannot lie. He knows their hearts and declares none of them keep the law, and they unjustly seek to kill Him for one miracle on the Sabbath. They misjudged the miracle as not being something truly wonderful to thank God for, but something woeful to curse Jesus for.

But most incredibly, the Pharisees judged and condemned Jesus for something which they justified for themselves. That is the definition of hypocritical. This is called judgmentalism, not correct judgment.

See, if a boy was born on the Sabbath then he would be circumcised on the next Sabbath. That was a work done by the rabbi which they thought was more important to keep than the Sabbath law.

It was a circumcision of the flesh, not of the soul. Of one part of the body, and not the whole. It was painful, not peaceful. Yet Jesus' work healed the man's whole body, it was peaceful, and more than that it healed his soul.

It's a dangerous thing to judge by mere appearances. How can we judge correctly? Be a person who loves God and wants to do His will. Go back to the Bible for understanding of right moral discernment. That is our standard. Practice this in a life of obedient faith, and shun merciless, graceless, judgmentalism.