



## ***Day One: Judgement Kills***

Ever made a judgement call? We do it all the time! In fact if we really thought about it, making judgements is like breathing for us. Judgement and dishonour and his kicker buddy, pride, go hand in hand. Judgement is worse than a game of Russian roulette, because you actually know the outcome, as scripture tells the results of judgements.

***Matt 7:1*** “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgement you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

This verse is not talking about Jesus judging us, Jesus quite emphatically said, that He didn't come to judge the world but to save it. Some scriptures to look at would be John 3:17 and John 12:46-48.

Jesus declared that the word he had spoken would judge us. That's not The Word with a capital 'W', it is little 'w', meaning words He had spoken. It's our willingness to believe His words and forsake our own judgements for the truth. Judgement will lock you in and shut you down like nothing else.

Think of this, Jesus died to save the world, right? If I believe this and exchange my judgements for this truth, I live eternally with God. If I hold on to my judgements, contrary to that truth, I live in eternity without God. Is salvation there for me? Yes! Did Jesus pay for it? Yes! The measure I used, was the measure I received, simple as that. People go to hell every day for it.

Out of the mouth the heart speaks, right? So whatever is in our heart, is what will eventually come out our mouths, especially in a tight spot. These are the very words that judge us, this is the very measure we used, coming back upon us. The words we speak represent our core beliefs. We can fluff it and fake for a while, but even that represents a core belief, that you live upon. Our core beliefs are what we will live out of. It is the measure of our heart.

Let me just take a quick side track on this:

We all know the power of words. Proverbs 18:21 says “*the power of life and death are in the tongue.*” The world was created by words and The WORD Jesus holds it all together.



So words spoken from judgements in our hearts have the power to direct and form our future, even if they are contrary to what God says.

But the words we use against each other, are particularly dangerous. Especially when believers get together and speak in dishonour and judgement against each other is like shooting yourself in the foot - they are part of our very own body!

Of course the converse is also true. If we come together, with words of love and encouragement, seeing the treasure, refusing to judge poorly and dishonour, we can release people to rise into their God given destiny. It is the very essence of what God does for us.

Judgments set parameters and limits on us and everyone else. If I expect to fail, I will, because in my heart I believe I am a failure. So even if Jesus calls me the opposite, I am limited by my own judgements. Jesus calls me righteous - If I don't believe Him and in my own heart I still judge myself to be unrighteous, I will experience unrighteousness in my life, despite the fact that Jesus bled and died and calls me righteous.

I am powerless to live above my own judgements. God can call me righteous until He is blue in the face, and if I don't believe it (judge it to be true in my heart) unrighteous living is what I will experience. It's like drawing a line in the sand, putting a limit on me that I can't get over no matter how hard I try, because I have set up a judgement about something in my heart. Worse than that it's a gilded castle that makes us think we are in control, when all along we are in the worst form of bondage, PRIDE...



How do you feel about the fact that our judgements can even derail us from the life Jesus died to give us? How has this devotional impacted you?

---

---



## ***Day Two: Our Judgements Judge Ourselves***

Have you ever wondered why we seem to attract certain things? Why sad people attract sadness and other sad people. And hurt people continue to get hurt. Man, your heart just breaks. I have a friend who is constantly getting ripped off by people, every time you talk to him, there is another sad story of how someone ripped him off in some way. If I have judgement sets in my heart, (ie if I believe everyone is out to rip me off), that's measure I will receive. Why, I've set it up in my own heart. I've made a limit! I view everyone through that lens, including myself.

You know, we are prone to act in like those we are judging. Jesus follows on in Matthew 7 by saying, *'Why do you look at the speck in your brothers eye when you have a plank in your own?'* The plank in our own eye makes us view everyone through the same lens - we will see specks in everyone! Why? Because that is actually how we view ourselves deep down in our heart. Those are the parameters we have set, even if we can't see it at the time. That's why Jesus says, *'remove your own planks, your own judgements and you will see your brother a whole lot more clearly'*.

This is the measure. It is your own limited perceptions based upon your own warped judgements that are based up your experience or others' experiences and often not the truth. It is bondage of the worst kind. Read the book of James. It says that judgement is completely without mercy, especially to the one who is without mercy. Judgement is a harsh task master and it exacts a heavy payment.

That is what the law is - an external judgement system upon sin. It was never meant to bring us to perfection, but to show us our need of a saviour. It highlights our shortfall (sin), and grace, which is Gods unlimited power and ability to overcome. The reason it is so powerful is because it is attached to mercy not judgement. The law flows from judgement, Grace flows from mercy.

Sweet sister, God is not judging us - He placed all judgment upon Jesus. He is full of grace and mercy. It is the very thing that takes the limits off us and is the very reason God can call us Holy, perfected, righteous, saints and all those other mind-blowing, glorious honours he bestows upon us. It can all come,



because there is no judgement towards us in His heart. Mercy reigns and Grace flows.



How have you judged yourself and therefore judged others? Ask Holy Spirit to show you the judgements that you have made in your heart so that you can instead judge God to be true.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### ***Day Three: Limiting God***

The effect of judgements is not only upon yourself but is multiplied to others. We even limit God by our judgements.

*In Acts 13:46 it reads, 'then Paul and Barnabus grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the gentiles."*

The Jews in Antioch where Paul and Barnabus were sharing the gospel, by their own heart judgements, judged themselves unworthy of eternal life. They made a serious judgement call about God and it cost them eternal life. That's a high price to pay! Was everlasting life available to them? Yes! What stopped them from receiving it? Their own judgements.

Judgement is dangerous ground - it sets us up to reap a harvest of hurt. It causes us to dishonour each other and God. It sets us up to act pridefully. Then a fall is most certain. God is in direct opposition to the proud. Because he wants to be? No! Because it is the exact opposite to who He is. He can't meet us in pride because our heart is not set up to believe Him towards change.

Sometimes we think judgement is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We pretty it up by calling it the gift of discernment. There is no such gift given by the Holy Spirit in scripture. The spiritual gift detailed in 1 Corinthians 12:10, is the gift of discerning of spirits. This gift is not given as a licence for us to judge each other and 'discern' each other. It is given to recognise the spirit's activity in things. Basically, it tells us what is going on in the spirit realm.

It is not about judging the flesh in any way - God no longer sees us after the flesh, so we don't ever need to be judging each other after the flesh. It is dishonouring and destructive, to us and everyone else. It limits the body as a whole and hinders the work of God. If it doesn't bring forth, grace and mercy and love for my sister it's not God.

I want to show you a powerful example of the destructiveness of judgement and dishonour. Turn with me to a couple of our sisters – Sarah and Hagar, in Genesis 16.



I was reading a book the other day and I came across a very disturbing image you will have all seen them. The picture of a Muslim woman covered from top to toe in a burkha. Controlled, rejected, considered little better than cattle, her whole identity is only in bearing sons. She is even stripped of all sense of identity in terms of her outward covering. This picture was followed by a quote from an Afgani soldier, *"Girls are not important, they don't count."* It was like my heart was pierced with God's pain and sorrow for His lost and enslaved daughters.

Immediately I felt to read about Hagar and Sarah. I suddenly saw things there that I had never seen before. It made me think about things like *'Am I my sisters keeper?'* and the power and long reaching effects of judgement and dishonour.

The burkha begins with Sarah making a judgement. In verse 2 she says, *"See now the Lord has restrained me from having children. Please go into my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her."* And Abraham heeded the voice of Sarah.

Oh My! 'God has kept me from having children.' She knew the promises made to Abraham, the pressure she felt was on her to produce a son. As a woman, her entire identity - or so she thought - was challenged. The judgement she made caused her to act in accordance to the belief in her heart about God. 'He is withholding on me, not coming through for me.' Therefore, like Eve, she became another sister who judged God to be withholding. She acted without God, separate to trusting Him, and the result was Ishmael. This caused a cascade of events that women today are still reaping the results of.

## Soak Time

How have you ever judged yourself as being 'unworthy' of the life Christ offers you?

---

---

---



## ***Day Four: Far-Reaching Effects of Dishonour***

Who was Hagar? She was the Egyptian slave of Sarah and Abraham. I am so staggered by the level of dishonour Sarah dished out to Hagar! She was treated as common goods and used for her reproductive purposes. What does this tell us about how Sarah really perceived herself and womanhood in general?

Then it begins, it implodes! We know the story. Hagar becomes pregnant, then she despises Sarah. She could do what Sarah couldn't - conceive a child. They were both bound by judgements made even about their very purpose as a woman. Dishonour and judgement is rife. The situation becomes so out of hand, Sarah treating Hagar so badly that she flees from her, pregnant out into the desert. That is desperation!

There God meets her. A used, pregnant slave girl. Remember the promise to Abraham here and just how messed up this had gotten.

In the desert, Hagar has this extra ordinary experience with God. Where she gives God a name, (the first person to give God a name) She calls Him El Roi, '*the God who sees me*'. Imagine her relief, the invisible woman, visible to the most High God. He in turn names her child (the first child God names). He blesses her with a fruitful blessing almost identical to Isaac's. The only exception - He is the fulfilment of the promise. Read it, compare the two blessings!! Amazing!

Here is the power of dishonour and judgement. Ishmael is the father of the entire Arab race. They proudly trace their lineage back to Abraham, via Ishmael. But their basis is entirely different. The difference? Their mothers. They came from different wombs.

Issac was the son Sarah eventually had, when she judged God faithful and believed Him as Hebrews 11 tells us. He was the fulfilment of the promise God made to Abraham and the father of our faith.

Isaac and Ishmael had the same father, the same God, almost the same blessing if you look at it very closely. They had different mothers, with differing identity beliefs and judgements. Hagar was a slave, she believed it, it was her identity. Sarah in judging her so and dishonouring her set her up to believe that about herself. Can you imagine the bitterness of heart Hagar had?





She conceived and bore a son in slavery, with no rights no choices, no identity separate to those who enslaved her. Her only use was to bear a son. Is this not the mark of thousands of women in traditional Muslim homes today? The heart wrenching belief that girls don't count. That plainly is not God's view. He found Hagar, the invisible, unseen slave girl and she experienced him in a way few have.

## Soak Time

Islam and Christianity both stemmed from the same father, the same home, the same source. Is it possible that the judgements of Sarah and Hagar led to this religious division and tension? How do you feel about the far-reaching impact that Sarah and Hagar's judgements have made? Does it make you realise how much impact our own judgements can make?

---

---

---





### ***Day Five: Judge God to be True***

How far reaching can dishonour and judgement be? Generations of our sisters are enslaved. Totally owned, in their dress, their worth, their identity. They have no freedom. The men are as enslaved as the women. What sort of wife did Hagar get for Ishmael? The Bible tells us an Egyptian wife - one just like herself? Ishmael grew up in knowing nothing else.

It breaks my heart to see my enslaved sisters... to imagine their daughters growing up with the belief, that they are worthless. I imagine if that were my daughters. I thank God for the culture and country I am born in.

But I am responsible. Every time I believe a lie and make a concurring judgement, I ensnare myself and those I am judging. I am frustrating the grace of God in my life and subjecting myself and those around me to slavery. I am sure Sarah and Hagar had no idea of the ramifications of their dishonour and judgement of each other.

The only just judge is God and let me tell you how he judges you. Beloved, Holy, perfected, clean, righteous, a vessel of honour, glorious, His children, the bride of His Son. Need I go on? There are no limits on the judgement of God towards us. He judges us favourably every time, and this sets us up to reach those places. He put all the judgement upon Jesus and this is now how He sees you every time. The only things stopping us reaching the heights God says we already have is our judgement in our hearts. Will we believe him and judge Him to be true?

Girls let's line our hearts up with God's - it is the only way for us to be free! Let's let ourselves and our sisters out of our cages - Jesus has already opened the door! Let's walk right through and take each other along. Speak to the treasure, believe the truth, God's truth about each other. Refuse to make judgements, that differ from God's. Let's judge Him to be true, believe Him and watch it become a reality in our lives.

.



## Soak Time

If you really judged God's judgements to be true, how would this change the way you look at yourself?

---

---

---

---

---

How would this change the way you look at those around you?

---

---

---

---

---