

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

## 'WITH THE SAME MEASURE'

Sermon Text: Luke 6:36-42

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive and ye shall be forgiven; give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. And He spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say unto thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

Fellow redeemed in Christ,

How many times have we heard some acquaintance or even a family member chide us for taking a firm stand on some question of morality?

Yes, the second verse of our sermon text in which Jesus says "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged" has quite often been used by the World as a call for Bible believing Christians to tolerate, yea, even condone the overt wickedness of a sinful people.

We are derided with angry looks and accusations that we are being intolerant, insensitive and unloving when we speak out against the sins of homosexuality, abortion, adultery, becoming spiritually entangled with those who deny any Truth of God's Holy Word, or when we stand firmly against anything which God has forbidden by the clear teaching of Scripture.

But is this what Jesus was talking about when he said "Judge not and ye shall not be judged."? No!, the Lord's words here do not mean that any and all judging is wrong, insensitive or unloving.

In fact, because we live under a democratic form of government, we ought to make use of right judgments concerning the character, past record and abilities of those who would govern our schools, cities, county, state and nation, and apply those judgments when we go to cast our votes, so that our government might be staffed and well served by God-fearing men.

Furthermore, Jesus is not here commanding us to tolerate or condone sinful behavior. Indeed, the Bible contains many passages which command us not to tolerate sinful behaviors and in God's own order of creation and in the establishment of the family and the Church, He has given those whom He has placed in authority over us the right and the most serious duty of making right judgments.

That using God's Word as the only source and norm of Christian life, they might prayerfully watch over us; guard and teach us and correct any and all wrong attitudes and sinful behavior that would endanger our physical, emotional or, even more importantly, our spiritual welfare.

This duty belongs not only to those who care for us as our parents, teachers, and pastors; but we, too, as individual brothers and sisters in the faith, ought to help one another in our daily walk through this life, reproving, correcting, and instructing one another in love for Christ to the glory of God and His Kingdom.

We read in II Timothy 3:16-chapter 4:2

" All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfectly furnished unto all good works. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

No, The Words used by Jesus in our text refers to those judgments which are indeed made with malice of heart, or are uncharitable, unauthorized, and completely unforgiving and so condemning in their nature.

Such unloving and unforgiving judgments may come from an unbelieving person because of fear and trembling of his conscience for the righteous condemnation in which he stands before God on account of his own sins; and so that he might direct attention from his own sins to the personal life and sins of his neighbor.

Such a one does not yet know, or he has already rejected, the mercy of God offered to the whole world through Christ Jesus. He is yet spiritually blind and threatens to drag others blinded by sin along with him, as he falls into the ditch of impenitance and unbelief.

Such uncharitable, unscriptural judgments may also come from one who, just as the Pharisee with his eyes to heaven thanking God that he is not as bad a sinner as his neighbor, has neglected to sincerely and honestly examine his own attitudes and wicked behavior in the light of Scripture.

This is, unfortunately a common occurrence among believers. Too often we refuse to see our own shortcomings and failings. We become full of self-righteous indignation at seeing the sins of the world around us; in our minds we thank God we're "not like them".

Sadly, at times we may also come off sounding condemning in our vocal evaluation and judgment of not only the sins of our neighbor, but also the choices a Christian brother or sister makes in those matters which are neither commanded nor forbidden by God. Purposefully or not, the results of such unloving, uncharitable, and unscriptural judging, may be the driving away of that individual we have so harshly and hastily judged, from the partaking of spiritual nourishment, necessary to the salvation of their soul.

Let us guard against such uncharitable judging and condemning!

Our Lord asks us a very important question in our text in order to admonish and instruct us. He asks:

" Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they both not fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master; but everyone that is perfect shall be as his master. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in brothers eye yet perceivest not the beam in thine own eye? Either, how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

If one is blinded by sin in his own life, how shall he be able, much less qualified, to correct and guide another out from his sinful life? If you wish to show a person the right path to walk, you yourself must first know the path and walk in it.

If one wishes to correct the sins and weaknesses of his neighbor without bringing shame upon himself or the Church, let them first put their own house in order. For the person that is ALWAYS ready to point out the folly of his brother, no matter how small a matter it is, would be as the person who is quite confident of his ability to remove the speck of dust in his brother's eye, while in his own eye there is embedded a massive beam, which actually prevents him from seeing clearly to do either himself or his brother any good.

Jesus calls such a person a hypocrite. That individual needs first to modify his own behavior and to remove his offense on the basis of God's Word before attempting to help his neighbor remove the sin or offense from his personal life.

Each and everyone of us; on account of our sin, deserves nothing but the wrath of Almighty God and eternal punishment in the fires of Hell. For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the Truth is not in us.

No one is above his brother in deserving of God's full anger and punishment, nor is anyone less needful of the gracious mercy of God in Christ. For that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Our Lord tells us: "Cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Have you brought attention to your neighbor's sin out of true love for him and concern for his soul, going first to him in private, as Scripture commands, seeking to win him back to the right path for Christ's sake? Or did you make his sin or what you viewed as a foolish decision known to others as a way to put him down or get even with him, because you believe he has slighted you in some way?

Man sees the outward things, but the Lord knows your hearts. If you have acted in such a manner, repent of this sin, and clinging to the cross of Christ by faith as a child of God then, walk with the Holy Spirit. Endeavor with His Holy guidance not to make these unforgiving and unloving types of judgments, which are in and of themselves sinful, but rather after the loving example of your Savior, practice forgiveness!

Now if we desire forgiveness for the multitude of sins for which we ourselves would stand condemned before God without the blood of Christ to cleanse us; we must forgive our neighbor, we WILL forgive our neighbor.

In Mark 11:25,26 we hear Jesus' words to us:

" ...When you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

The person who does not forgive his neighbor, no matter if it be for gross sin or a simple slight, but yet hangs onto the bitter resentment and the desire for revenge against one's neighbor, is not truly of a broken and contrite heart for his own sins.

We must give, if we hope to receive. For as our text tells us, it is with the same standard or measure by which we judge and forgive our neighbor, that we shall be judged and forgiven by God. Furthermore, as we willingly give our time, talents, and temporal blessings out of love for Christ for our neighbor's physical, emotional and spiritual welfare; God will, in turn, bless us with temporal and spiritual blessings again most richly and abundantly.

Jesus said: " Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

So, Dear Ones, ask for forgiveness from those you have sinned against and forgive those who have sinned against you. Unselfishly give of yourselves in true Christian service to one another in the Lord. Forgive one another with meekness, forbear one another in patience, and uphold one another with the arms of Love; knowing that you are all one body in Christ.

Then, indeed the Lord will graciously bless you, and this congregation with the True Peace of heart, mind, and spirit which surpasses all human understanding.

And now may that Peace of God which surpasses all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.