

## Avoid Judging Others

Most of us are familiar with the story of the lady caught in adultery, found in John 8:1-11: **Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

## Don't Yield to the Spirit of Judging Others

If you're not careful, it's easy to yield to the same spirit the scribes and Pharisees did in judging the woman who committed adultery. It doesn't make a difference how many scriptures you can quote on adultery, or any other subject. If you're not divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, it's not going to fly. You can take scripture to put people down with, or you can use scripture to guide people and build them up spiritually.

But when you use the Word out of anger, or in a condescending way, you're doing it in the flesh and not by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. What you're saying

is the truth, because it's God's Word, but if your motive and purpose don't have the person's best interest at heart, you're taking the Word and judging others with it.

When the Sadducees and Pharisees said: **Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?** (John 8:4& 5), they were referring to the Old Covenant. They were not interested in helping this lady. Plus, they were coming across as if they'd never sinned.

There is no one in this world who doesn't have some kind of issue that they are dealing with, or need to deal with. Even the most famous minister in the world has issues in his life, family or ministry that most people are unaware of, and is using all the Word of God that he knows to deal with it.

There is no perfect minister/ministry/church in this world, because there is no perfect person except Jesus. We're all to be working out our own salvation, striving for perfection and exhorting one another.

Philippians 2:12: **Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

Matthew 5:48: **Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

Hebrews 10:25: **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

What these Pharisees said was true, but their motive was wrong. They always seemed to be angry, had no peace in their heart, and lashed out at others. A self-righteous, religious person is always opinionated, quick to judge others, haughty, hard-hearted, seemingly angry at the world, and think they have it all worked out because they think

they know so much. There's no one person in the body of Christ who has all the answers, but our Father God does.

Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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