

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

August 16

I have little doubt that we are all guilty of judging others. The challenge to us and to all Believers is how do we rectify our judging others considering other scriptures that tell us to examine the fruit of people we meet, or does it tell us that?

Matthew 7

(Luke 6:37-42; Romans 14:1-12)

1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

From Strong's Concordance: Judge

Transliteration: *krinó*

Pronunciation: *kree'-no*

Phonetic Spelling: *(kree'-no)*

KJV: *avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think*

Judge, judging, judgement all carry the connotation of determining guilt or innocence. God is warning us that we have not been given that authority outside of human government. We as Believers are not given authority to determine guilt or innocence.

However, as we study this, we have been given the authority to counsel. Counseling involves both wisdom and kindness, mercy and grace. The very thing that God sent to save us.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Proverbs 13:10 By insolence comes nothing but strife, but with those who take advice is wisdom.

Seeking God's Wisdom Directly

As Believers, we are called by God to seek His wisdom by studying His Word. That is where we learn what His wisdom looks like and how we can know that it is true.

If we rely only on others to tell us what God's wisdom is, we risk hearing human opinion instead of God's Word. Even these words are not meant to be a substitute for Scripture or a final source of understanding.

A better approach is to:

- study God's Word for yourself;
- ask Him for wisdom and understanding;
- weigh every teaching, including mine, against Scripture.

In the end, your confidence should rest in God's Word, not in another person's explanation of it.

2For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

This from Bereans Bible help:

“This concluding phrase reinforces the principle of reciprocity and divine justice. It serves as a warning and a promise that one's actions and attitudes towards others will have consequences. This idea is consistent with the teachings of Jesus throughout the Gospels, where He often highlights the importance of mercy, forgiveness, and love. Theologically, it points to the character of God as just and fair, ensuring that each person receives according to their deeds. This principle is also reflected in the parables of Jesus, such as the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant ([Matthew 18:23-35](#)), where the lack of mercy shown by the servant results in a harsh judgment.”

2 Corinthians 5:2 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Don't think for a moment that all Believers are NOT going to have to give an accounting of how we lived our lives to Jesus at the Bema Seat Judgement. We WILL give an account of our lives including this idea of judging others. This is not about Salvation. For the Believer, Salvation is secure. What remains is the examination of how we lived in light of redemption and

forgiveness—an accounting that will take place either at our death or at the Rapture.

Measured by the Standard We Use

At the Bema Seat Judgment, it appears that Jesus will examine the way we judged others and use that same measure in evaluating how we lived. The standard will not be human opinion, but God's Word—the written measure He has given to guide our lives.

That raises a serious question for each of us: how will we measure up when our own attitudes, words, and judgments are weighed against the truth of Scripture?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drbOxW8VHVw>

The Better Response

The best response to the reality of our own judgment is simple: do not judge others from a fleshly spirit and instead walk in obedience to God's Word.

The bottom line is this: God does not need us to define or condemn sin as though He has not already spoken. He has already judged sin, revealed what it is, and warned us where it leads when a person chooses to live in it.

One more thing on “judging”.

3And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? 5Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

The idea is obvious, that we have sufficient sin in our own lives that we should deal with before we go out and point out sins in our friends and others lives.

The question comes as to what should we do with God telling us to examine the fruit to decide where any other person is at in their spiritual lives.

There are likely several things to consider when God tells us to examine the fruit of others. Know this also, others are to examine the fruits in our lives as well.

The first is that we do that to be aware of “false prophets”. We also are cautioned to “test the spirits”. These are cautions given to us to protect our Spirit and Souls against lies and false hoods.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world.

The balance we must deal with is our seeing the fruits of others and weigh those against God's Word. At the same time, we are to examine our own lives and weight our own fruits against God's Word. In other words, we are to judge ourselves before we judge others.

Really consider that in each of our lives how is our self judging going?

6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Strong's Concordance in Word helps defines this term "dog" as:

2965 *kýōn* – literally, a dog, scavenging canine; (figuratively) a spiritual predator who feeds off others.

What is a "spiritual predator". It is described as someone who feeds off others. We have seen an immense increase in fraud in the US by people taking tax dollars or donated dollars ostensibly to help the needy but in reality using the money for themselves. In the sense that these people are stealing either tax money of the populace or donated money by those wanting to help, makes those doing it to be predators. God refers to them as "spiritual predators". There exists in the spirit world Angels and Demons. It

is obvious which spirit is directing the deceitful humans in their plight to steal what is not theirs.

In a more specific response to this idea and what is to follow, as Christians we should be aware of the motives of those we even share the Good News with. If they are adamant about rejecting Christ then we have our answer and we should not pursue sharing the Good News with them, as:

“that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

Ask, Seek, Knock
([Luke 11:5-13](#))

7Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **8**For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Understanding the Promise

These verses should not be read as a blank check from God to fulfill every personal desire. A true believer understands that God's promises must be understood in light of His will, His character, and His desire for what is spiritually good for us. Some religions and teachers have taken one or two verses in isolation

and built doctrines that do not reflect the full counsel of God's Word.

Salvation as the Clearest Example

When we consider the blessing of Salvation, these verses fit perfectly. Anyone who sincerely seeks Salvation through the Blood of Jesus will receive it. "Ask, and it shall be given you" reflects God's desire that all people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

8For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Salvation and God's Will

When we consider these verses in relation to Salvation, the meaning becomes clear. Salvation is within God's Will, and it is God's desire that all people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

What These Verses Teach

From these two verses, we can understand several important truths about asking, seeking, and knocking:

- What we ask must be consistent with God's Will and desire for those who love Him.

- What we seek should be spiritually beneficial according to God's wisdom, not merely according to our own desires.
- Salvation is both for our benefit and fully within God's Will.
- The "name it and claim it" teaching is false when it treats God's promises as permission to demand whatever we want.

These two verses are much broader than Salvation alone. But if we use Salvation as an example we can see as stated the conditions of what God is saying and it is not get anything you want by asking in Jesus' name.

9Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? **10**Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? **11**If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

The Father Gives What Is Good

These verses reinforce the same point: what God gives is decided by the Father's Will and by His loving desire for what is truly good for His children. Just as an earthly father would not give his son something harmful or useless, our Heavenly Father gives what is beneficial to the Believer.

- God's gifts are always consistent with His Will.
- God gives what is spiritually beneficial, not merely what we desire.

- The comparison to a father and son shows God's care, wisdom, and protection.

12Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

***Luke 6:31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

The Narrow Gate ***(Luke 13:22-30)***

We have discussed these next two verses repeatedly. They point out the ultimate direction given by God as to the volume of humanity that WILL and WILL NOT enter Heaven.

We know God's heart as to coming to a saving knowledge Jesus Christ and how many He wants to be saved.

***1 Timothy 2:4** **4**Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

***2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.*

***Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone.*

13Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **14**Because strait *is* the

gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

A Tree and its Fruit

(Matthew 12:33-37; Luke 6:43-45)

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

The Warning Against False Prophets

This graphic description is meant to emphasize both the character and the danger of false prophets. Jesus portrays them as people who may appear harmless outwardly, yet inwardly are deceptive, self-serving, and destructive.

- They are false teachers who speak as though they represent God, while actually promoting lies.
- They are compared to ravening wolves because their influence is spiritually dangerous and harmful to those who follow them.

Strong's Concordance defines a "false prophet" as:

"5578 pseudoprophētēs (from 5571 /pseudēs, "false" and 4396 /prophētēs, "a prophet") – properly, a false prophet; someone pretending to speak the word of the Lord (prophecy) but in fact is phony (an imposter), acting as a wolf in sheep's clothing."

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

If a prophet or dreamer of dreams arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you, / and if the sign or wonder he has spoken to you comes about, but he says,

“Let us follow other gods (which you have not known) and let us worship them,” / you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. For the LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Jeremiah 23:16

This is what the LORD of Hosts says: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They are filling you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Galatians 1:6-9 I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— / which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ. / But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! ...

16Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

We are clearly told not to judge lest we be judged by the same measure. But here we are told to know people by their fruits? Isn't that judging? Another word Jesus used was “council”.

Counseling is not set in the stage of trial, to determine innocence

or guilt it is set in an atmosphere of help. Helping someone who is struggling, someone who is lost or in need of sound wisdom.

There are listed seven gifts of the Spirit that are given to Believers. Not all gifts are given to all Believers but are given as God sees fit. The goal God has in those gifts is that it unites the Body of Christ the Church. Some of the gifts are meant as protective mechanism so Believers will not be led astray. Discerning of Spirits is to determine whether they be from God, from man or from demons.

For example, in Galatians 1 we see Paul exercise both discernment and Judgement or Council.

Galatians 1:6-9 I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— / which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ. / But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! ...

Paul's discernment is pointing out that these Galatians had been led astray by the teaching of another gospel than what Paul and the Disciples had taught. These Galatians Paul addresses were obviously deserting God, the ONE who called they by grace.

“how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different Gospel.”

Next comes Paul's Counseling:

“Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ.”

And finally, Paul establishes sound wisdom in judging or counseling these Galatians as to the outcome of the problem for anyone who would follow this false teaching.

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! ...”

We have discussed two major religions that have fallen into this exact trap; Islam and Mormons. There are likely others, but they are two of the largest. Many people have tried to counsel members of both religions. Some are successful and they turn to Christ. Those who don't will die in their ignorance.

Now someone may look at what I just said and accuse me of judging. God made the judgement as to what was acceptable and what was not. What I need to do is in Love express what God's says, not what I think.

17Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. **18**A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. **19**Every tree that bringeth not

forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Again, looking outside the Church to religion, we can discern that the “other gospels” that either the Mormons with the Book of Mormon or Islam with Quran have both accepted as truth a different or “gospel contrary” to the one we preached to you....

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! ...

Perhaps the most frightening verses in the Bible. These Words from our Lord and Savior strike our hearts like a bolt of lightning. Any time we are jolted to consider our own salvation wisdom tells us to examine ourselves.

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good deed.

21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Profession Must Reach the Heart

Simply saying, “Lord, Lord,” is not enough for God to declare that a person is saved. In our studies, we have seen that many people

mentally agree that Jesus is the Son of God, yet that truth never reaches the heart.

When the reality of Jesus reaches the heart, Scripture describes the heart as being “circumcised.” This means the old nature is cut away, and a new creature now lives within the body.

That inward change should be visible in a life that:

- puts God first in all things;
- moves beyond mental agreement into genuine faith;
- shows evidence of a transformed heart and life.

August 23, 2026

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Understanding “That Day”

There are several issues to consider in this verse, beginning with the phrase “that day.” In Scripture, this often points to a day of judgment by Christ. It does not appear to describe the Bema Seat Judgment, since that judgment concerns Believers. Instead, it may refer to the Great White Throne Judgment or to events connected with Jesus’ second coming.

If the reference is to the Great White Throne Judgment, then Jesus is speaking of people who acknowledged His authority in some outward or mental way but were never truly saved. They may have used religious language and even claimed works done in His name, yet their lives did not reflect a saving relationship with Him.

Obedience and Salvation

This may sound as though obedience is being made part of salvation. The clearer way to say it is this: obedience does not earn salvation, but it should follow salvation. A person who claims Christ as Lord and Savior while continually refusing obedience to God and His Word gives serious reason to question whether genuine salvation has taken place.

That is why verse 23 is so sobering. Jesus does not merely reject their works; He says, "I never knew you." The issue is not that they lost salvation after once knowing Him, but that they never had the saving relationship they claimed.

The individuals claim of **"have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"** This is a negative argument; one in which the accused try to justify their actions by asking the Judge if

they did certain things in apparent agreement with His Will?
Various actions are apparently available through Satan's power granted by God. But when the heart uses Satan as it's source of power, the actions even though taught as God's power are motivated by evil.

For example:

Exodus 7: 8And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 9When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Acts 19: 13Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

This is quoted from Verse by Verse Ministry:

<https://versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers/unbelievers-casting-out-demons>

“This truth explains why in [Matthew 7:22](#) Jesus declares that some will prophesy and cast out demons in Jesus’ name yet He will say He doesn’t know them at the judgment. These are unbelievers who were under the influence of false teaching and were working in the power of Satan to accomplish great miracles, but they didn’t have the Spirit and didn’t know the true Gospel. Present-day examples of such people include Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, and unbelievers trapped in many pentecostal movements around the world.”

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

I am quite certain that this is not the Bema Seat Judgment when Jesus rejects these false Christians, claiming a knowledge of Jesus but are liars and false prophets and false Christ’s. This is the Great White Throne Judgement most likely.

Matthew 24 will delve more deeply into these events but I believe we are seeing many of them today.

The House on the Rock **([Luke 6:46-49](#))**

We often talk about Obedience and will continue to stress the importance to walking in Obedience to God’s Word. These next verses will point precisely at that command.

24Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Obedience Built on Christ

Obedience means hearing the command of Christ and then carrying it out. Jesus makes this clear: when we listen to His words and walk in obedience to His direction, we build our Christian life on a firm foundation. That foundation is Christ Himself—the Rock that will not fail.

25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Trials That Test the Foundation

The rain, floods, and winds picture the pressures, trials, and spiritual attacks that beat against a Believer's life. Satan may buffet us and seek to draw us away from Christ, but he can only do what God permits.

When our foundation is Christ, those storms do not have the final word. They test the strength of what we are built upon and reveal whether our trust is truly fixed on Him.

Romans 8:18 *I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 *For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison.*

Romans 8:23 *Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: **27**And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Arrogance and refusal to follow Jesus in Obedience opens wide the gate to destruction and many there are that find that path.

The Authority of Jesus

28And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

Sunday after Sunday, we sit together and read God's Word, and still we are astonished by the doctrines He reveals. His truth continues to confront us, instruct us, and draw our hearts toward greater understanding.

Can we imagine what it would have been like to hear these teachings directly from the lips of Jesus? Though we were not present when He spoke to them, God has given us the next best

thing: His written Word and the Holy Spirit, who brings understanding to the truth of Scripture.

29For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

The Blessing of Hindsight

We are blessed with the benefit of hindsight, and when it is rightly understood, hindsight can be 20/20. We now read these words after the cross, the resurrection, and the giving of the Holy Spirit, which allows us to see more fully the authority and truth of what Jesus taught and by His Authority as God.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James