



## Meeting Notes: Judgment (April 15, 2015)

We took April 8, 2015 off to enjoy Spring Break with our loved ones. These notes capture our April 15, 2015 meeting, during which one of the group members taught on what she had learned while studying judgment. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

**GOD'S GOAL for the Group:** Learn how to apply God's Word to our lives.

**CURRENT VISION:** "2015 - Passing the Test of our Faith from the Inside Out."

Scripture Reference: **Psalm 51:10**, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me" (NKJV).

### Discussion Topic: Judgment

- **Setting the stage:** In learning how to pass the test of our faith from the inside out, one of our objectives this year is to study Proverbs. To launch this study, various members are choosing a topic identified in the first four verses, which tell us why we should study Proverbs! This particular study addresses a topic in verse 3, "To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, **judgment**, and equity (NKJV) (bold added for emphasis).
- **Opening Question:** *What do you view as judging?* Several of our answers are below:
  - You see someone acting out of character and you put your thoughts and your expectations on them instead of God's.
  - Judging a person as being either guilty or innocent. For example, we prescribe motives or hold them responsible for our perceptions.
  - Holding people to our expectations.
  - Taking sides.
- **Discussion:** See the attached notes to capture the essence of what was presented; however, below are some highlights from our discussion.
  - **General discussion.**
    - Scriptures we looked at **Hebrews 12:15** (root of bitterness), **Mark 4:13** (parable of the sower and the seed), **Mark 7:6** (honoring God

with our lips, but not our heart), **Isaiah 29:13** (honoring God with our lips, but not our heart), **Romans 14:12** (giving an account to God), and **1 Peter 4:5** (we each will give an account to God).

- **The four fingers pointing back at us.** Even when we can't see the truth in ourselves, we can feel it and recognize it in someone else's life. However, the root of why we commit the same sin we are judging someone else for may be different from the root of their sin.
- **The comparison game.** This occurs when we say, "I wouldn't do that." Thus, while we'll make excuses for our behavior, we believe there's no excuse for their behavior!
- **A huge eye-opener:** "Do I want to risk my eternity based on the validity of my opinion of what someone else is doing?"
- **The connection between anger and judging.** We noted the anger comes because we don't like what we see.
- **Takeaway.** This discussion solidified three things: Stop making excuses for judging; judging is destructive in our lives, and that which we judge others for, we do ourselves!
- **Second Question:** *When are we generally judging others or just judging someone by their fruit?* There is a difference in judging and discerning. If we are to help restore someone overtaken in a fault (Galatians 6:1), we must be able to discern what fruit they are producing and seek the Holy Spirit on how to help them without condemning them for their actions.
- **Venting.** We had quite a discussion on venting., because judging usually involves or leads to venting.
  - **Discernment and venting.** As we discussed, it is easier to give venting than to receive it. However, if we're not judging the person venting, we can actually be discerning in that moment to hear what's really behind what they are venting about!
  - **Stuffing and venting.** There is an imbalance from venting to stuffing. When we stuff, it can and usually does eventually blow up! In the silence is where the judging comes in. In the silence, we can also lie to ourselves by saying we are giving something to the Lord, but we haven't and it will manifest in other ways in our lives—for example, in our health.
  - **Solutions.**
    - **Stay out of pride and control.** When we have given

someone advice, but they fail to take it, it is easy to slip into judging the person. Just because we have given the person advice about what to do, that doesn't mean they know (or understand) what we said well enough to follow it. Therefore, we shouldn't try to hold a person responsible for what they do not know. Also, what worked for us may not work for them, and we have to give people room to walk out things for themselves. By pulling back, we allow the Holy Spirit to speak to them. Lastly, while it's important to communicate to others where we are, we can't make them responsible for our feelings. For example, if we know we can't handle venting, we need to let the person know, but don't assume they will know how or be able to immediately stop venting to us.

- **Meet them where they are.** Even though Proverbs 29:11 teaches us a fool vents all of their feelings, but a wise person holds them back, if the person needs to vent, meet them where they are without judging them!
- **Let go of pride and control.** While we are listening to the person, DON'T feel the need to correct or fix what they are saying. We are not the Savior. Jesus is!
- **Pray.** If possible, pray while listening, so the Holy Spirit can reveal what they need. Then pray again after you get off the phone or leave their presence. Without the distraction of what's being said, you can more clearly hear what the Holy Spirit is saying. In addition, while we did not discuss this during group, we also need to pray over ourselves so our spirit and soul will not be overloaded by the venting.
- **Letting go of what we are venting about.** The question was asked, "How do I really learn to turn it over and let it go?" We suggested we put it on the altar. We do so by seeing what God's Word says about it. We then renew our mind by confessing His Word instead of our problem.

○ **More tidbits:**

- Name that arrow is a great tool to help us identify our true motives. This will help us not pray for our desired outcome, but to be delivered from the root issue of what is happening in our heart. For as the Bride of Christ, when we pray for our own selfish motives, we are being unfaithful to Jesus. OUCH!
- As someone pointed out, if we spend as much time working on

ourselves, where is the time for us to judge others!?

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should focus more on producing fruit in our own lives than judging someone else's fruit. However, this does not mean we should not be discerning in how to help someone find her way to (or back to) God. If we remove the plank from our eye, we can apply God's wisdom!

**Closing:** We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

*If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at [wow2@wow2women.com](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).*



## ATTACHMENT 1: Teaching Notes

### Judgment

**Question: What do you view as judging?**

*“We judge others by their actions, but we judge ourselves by our intentions.”*

#### **Dictionary Definition:**

1. An act or instance of judging
2. The ability to judge, make a decision or form an opinion objectively authoritatively and wisely; especially in a matter affecting action; Good sense;

#### **Bible Definition:**

To pass sentence upon; condemn; to act or decide as a judge; to form a negative opinion about; Good sense; the final Judgment.

#### **3 Types of Judgment**

1. Judging others
2. Having Good Judgment/Wisdom
3. God's Final Judgment

#### **Judging Others:**

Romans 2:1-3 (GNT)

Do you, my friend, pass judgment on others? You have no excuse at all, whoever you are. For when you judge others and then do the same things which they do, you **condemn** yourself. 2 We know that God is right when he judges the people who do such things as these. 3 But you, my friend, do those very things for which you pass judgment on others! Do you think you will escape God's judgment?

#### **Condemn**

To sentence someone to a particular punishment, **especially death**. Therefore, when we judge others we are ultimately putting ourselves to death.

***When judging others we feel “justifiably angry to judge.”***

The majority of the time the sin we notice in others are sins that have taken root somewhere in our lives. Therefore, if we pay attention we will recognize that we have committed the same sin somewhere in our lives.



**Question: When are we generally judging others or just judging someone by their fruit?**

*Matthew 7:16 says .....You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles*

- ❖ A fruit [tree] is judged by what it produces.....not by appearance

*Galatians 5:22 says.....But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness*

Therefore as disciples of Jesus Christ we should focus more on producing Fruit in our spiritual walk rather than focusing on the judgement of others.

- ❖ The only type of judging that should be implemented in our lives is when we are using good sound judgement/wisdom in our own life.

Because at the end of the day.....THE ONLY JUDGEMENT THAT REALLY MATTERS IS GOD'S INTERNAL FINAL JUDGEMENT!!!!