



*Presents*

# *Judging vs. Discerning*

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# *Judging vs. Discerning*

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# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 1 The Judgment of God*

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### *Preparation Comments*

- ✓ Amos is the prototypical harsh angry Old Testament prophet.
- ✓ The first chapter is five vendettas by God against different nations.
- ✓ Amos is not the kind of book we let our non-Christian friends read. It's a subject where we wince and are sometimes embarrassed about.
- ✓ Every word in the Bible is meant for life. There are truths in there if we'll face them.
- ✓ The Judgment of God may be the most foundational truth in all the Word of God.

### *Amos 1:1-15*

- ✓ **Tekoa** is the area where David hid from Saul. It's mountainous, craggy, and rough. It's a barren area. Shepherds had a harsh, meager existence. They were uneducated country bumpkins. He (Amos) was sent to the epicenter of the classy, educated northern kingdom of Israel. He was the ultimate southern hick country boy coming in with this wrath of God judgment during a time of great prosperity. In times of prosperity, no one wants to hear a word of judgment.
- ✓ Verse 3 begins **five judgments**. Circle the word "because" all five times.

### *Subjects that are Impossible to Fully Understand unless you First Understand the subject of the Judgment of God*

Heaven	Man's free will	Evangelism
Suffering	Sin	Salvation
Forgiveness	Justice	Human Authority
Morality	Compassion	Peace
Mercy	Grace	Joy
Faith	The Love of God	Self-Control
Holiness	Love	

## Subject # 1 – The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ

- ✓ **Romans 8:3** – “he condemned sin in sinful man.” You read Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Amos and you get tired of the judgments, but wrapped in our being is a sense of the fierceness of the judge who says, “That was evil and you deserve to die for that evil.” Until you have permitted that truth to seep into your being, you cannot understand that one arrogant look or one unkind word deserves the full wrath of God.
- ✓ Over the course of history there have been trillions of murders, rapes, and evil, and every one deserved God’s full wrath. He took all of those and placed them on the cross and turned the full wrath of God for all the sins of mankind until He had condemned His own son.
- ✓ I hear people say, “I don’t know how God can forgive me”. How dare you say Jesus didn’t pay a big enough price.
- ✓ **Romans 8:1**

## Subject # 2 – Why do the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_?

- ✓ Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, anti-God people have used September 11<sup>th</sup> as a battering ram against Christians.
- ✓ **Three Complete Answers to That Question** – when you combine all three, it completely answers that question.
  - **Answer #1** – \_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:19)
    - In the Garden of Eden, God gave authority over this planet to Adam.
    - When God gives authority it’s an extensive release of authority (example: God gives authority to parents for 15 – 18 years).
    - Adam took authority and gave it to Satan.
    - People say the earth is the Lord’s, but that’s a prophetic passage about Christ’s return. This is \_\_\_\_\_ planet.
    - You are behind enemy lines, it is Satan’s planet until the king returns.
    - A true judge always judges fairly, honestly, justly, impartially.
    - When people say, “Why didn’t God stop that drunk driver?” what they are saying is, “God, I don’t want you to judge my life or stop the evil in my life, but, being my puppet, I want you to intervene in something that would cause me pain.”
    - When Jesus comes to judge, He will judge all sin and there will be no more opportunity to repent. You cannot pick and choose where the judge intervenes.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter says that He waits until the last minute that one more might be saved.
- The measure that you love God is the measure that you hate Satan (Heb 1). It is an appropriate thing to say you hate Satan and will fight him until your dying breath.
- Answer – God is going to deal with it soon, but when He does, He is going to deal with all sin and every sin. Are you ready for that?
- Answer #2 – we have weapons \_\_\_\_\_ than the one who rules this planet.
  - We have the ability to come against disease, immorality, hate, etc.
  - We are not passive observers.
  - Does God intervene in the affairs of man? \_\_\_\_\_! Does He intervene in any arena apart from the faith of His people? \_\_\_\_\_!
- Answer #3
  - There are a few other questions this raises, like “So who’s innocent”? No one over five years old is innocent.
  - Other questions: “Why all of the pain?” “Is this an attack of Satan?” “Is this the free will of man or is this my Father correcting me?”
  - This is the only point that will count ten billion years from now.
  - All of our pain can be \_\_\_\_\_ for in-depth riches in the kingdom of God.

## *Subject # 3 – Man to Man*

- ✓ The judgment of God is in one sense singular and all-encompassing.
- ✓ If you put an s on that word, it completely changes the subject which has a horizontal perspective of *one man to another*.
- ✓ *Illustration of Elijah House and Breakthrough to Joy*
- ✓ You understand that there is not one millionth of a millimeter of space on the judgment throne of God for anyone but God. What we do is say, “God, scoot over, I want to judge this one.”
- ✓ James 2:13 – the judge has established that His most fierce retribution is for those who \_\_\_\_\_!
- ✓ When is it judging and when is it discerning? It’s not a fine line!
- ✓ *Illustration of what happens when you judge*
- ✓ I’ve set in motion when I’ve judged him, in ever increasing increments, everyone around me has to judge me exactly like I judged him. It will increase until I repent of that judgment.
- ✓ Every pastor is familiar with being tried, sentenced, and convicted without even knowing they were on trial. Every one of those people, their life gets worse over time.

- ✓ I repent because I fear God.
- ✓ There's two words for fear – Pachad and Yir'ah.
  - **Pachad** is an unreasonable, illogical fear.
  - **Yir'ah** is a fear of a gas burner on your stove and the fire's on. You don't walk around terrified but you don't put your hand in the fire.
- ✓ What loosed God's wrath five time in Amos? \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor!
- ✓ The highest sin in God's measure is judging or hurting someone else.
- ✓ Until you understand the judgment of God, you won't understand forgiveness, the fear of God, judgments, generational curses, mercy.

## ***Subject # 4 – The fear in our own \_\_\_\_\_***

- ✓ This is the issue of getting to the place of getting relaxed and confident and lighthearted in the presence of God 24/7.
- ✓ Most Christians walk around thinking God is mad at them.
- ✓ **Two Points**
  - A judge \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A Father \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ In the Old Testament, God is **only** the judge. In the New Testament, He is the judge to the unredeemed and unsaved, and He is the **Father** to the saved.
- ✓ **1 John 3:19-21** – reaching a place of **maturity** that you aren't afraid that God will slay you. God is greater than those emotions. He says if our hearts do not condemn us we have confidence before God.
- ✓ Would you like to get to the place that you are always wide open and ready to come into the presence of God? To do that, you must wrestle through **two issues**.
  - All \_\_\_\_\_ was **borne** on the cross of Jesus Christ.
  - Correction from our Father is a \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ You have to get over your Father issues. Once you embrace correction from your heavenly Daddy, you'll never have that nervous fear of God.
- ✓ **Three Truths About Discipline From Your Father**
  - **Truth # 1** – The quicker I receive it, the quicker it goes.
  - **Truth # 2** – If I don't fully receive it and learn the lesson, it will happen again and again until I learn it.
  - **Truth # 3** – when my Daddy corrects me, He does it for one reason. For every 10 pounds of correction, He's got 100 – 1000 pounds of riches and blessing. The correction was blocking His ability to bless me.
- ✓ The Bible says the correction of your Father is one of the most **encouraging** things that can happen to you (Hebrews 12:5-11)!

# **Judging vs. Discerning**

## ***Lesson 1 The Judgment of God***

### ***Discussion Questions***

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1. What has your impression always been about the judgment aspect of God? How did this teaching change any of your thinking on this subject?

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2. Summarize in your own words why the innocent suffer based on this teaching.

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3. To what degree do you struggle with judging others?

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4. Do you see God more as your judge or your Father? How did this teaching help in clarifying how God sees you?

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> Cross <sup>2</sup> innocent suffer <sup>3</sup> authority <sup>4</sup> Satan's <sup>5</sup> greater <sup>6</sup> Yes <sup>7</sup> No <sup>8</sup> exchanged <sup>9</sup> judge <sup>10</sup> wronging  
<sup>11</sup> hearts <sup>12</sup> condemns <sup>13</sup> corrects <sup>14</sup> condemnation <sup>15</sup> sweet gift <sup>16</sup> embraced

# Judging vs. Discerning

## Lesson 2 The Difference Between Judging and Discerning

### *\* Introductory Comments \**

- ✓ The Biblical command is “Do not judge”! There’s not one verse in the New Testament that gives a Christian the freedom to judge.
- ✓ Yet, the world takes that command and tries to turn it into an amoral society where you can do anything you want and we’re not allowed to judge. There’s a difference between judging a person and saying that a certain sin is a sin!
- ✓ On the other hand, when is it okay to discern? What is discerning and how different is discerning from judging?

### *\* Write Your Own Responses \**

**Judging Is**

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**Discerning Is**

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Most people’s definitions are a combination of culture and Bible. I’m going to ask you separate all culture apart and change your belief system into a purely Bible perspective.

## Three Main Traits of Judging

**# 1 – Draws** \_\_\_\_\_  
(\_\_\_\_\_)

- ➔ A verdict is something that a judge does. **Romans 14:4** says, “Who are you to judge someone else’s servant?” Only God is the one able to judge.
- ➔ When a judge says, “My verdict is...” he says, “All new information is excluded. All further discussion of the subject is closed. The entire subject is settled and done. I have decided the punishment you will face.”
- ➔ **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:5**

## Two Phrases

### 1. Test of \_\_\_\_\_

- The most judgmental group is always teenagers, because they have the brains and bodies of adults but not responsibilities of adults. When you get in your thirties and forties and look back on things you were so sure about twenty years ago, you realize that maybe you were partly wrong, maybe they weren't the devil, etc.
- The test of time softens the arrogance and you have a choice in your thirties and forties to deal with judgments.
- The greatest opportunity to repent is when your children become teenagers!
- Do you know how merciful God is that it takes about 50 years to die? Do you know the point at which your body stops growing and begins to die? 26! God allows this to happen to humble you!
- When your children become teenagers, your whole perspective of your mom and dad changes!

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A judger says, "I know why".
- You will never know the whole 'why' for one simple reason. There are 300 motives in every intense interchange.
- The most you'll ever know is part of someone's motives.

## # 2 – Gets \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

- ➔ The key is *easily* angry or hurt.
- ➔ Almost all anger is a \_\_\_\_\_. God says to every person, "Why are you angry" and the answer is always, "Because!" Then we give a definitive, clear summation of the situation. That's the root of the anger is how confident that we are that we know all the facts.
- ➔ God says that anger will bring you *under* judgment because you're operating in judgment.

## # 3 – A judging person talks about others

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- ➔ Can you judge someone in your heart and not talk about it? Only for a while.
- ➔ James says, “Do not slander” but the trick is defining slander.
- ➔ *Story about John and Beth*
  - Speaking negative about other people gets so seeped into your soul it’s like breathing.
  - Judging is an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The only exception clause Biblically is that I can only come to my wife and speak negatives about situations where I am going to deal with that person immediately, tell that person everything I’ve said to Beth, and I must be very hungry to hear Beth’s counsel. I get 30 seconds to say the negatives.
  - I submitted to the truth that I am not permitted to say anything negative about anyone. That doesn’t mean I stopped slandering, I just learned to repent a lot! You can’t break a 25 year addiction overnight.



Notes

- ➔ I learned that when I speak negatives, I am guaranteed that I will be \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of the day than if I hadn’t spoken the negatives!
- ➔ **Proverbs 17:9** – you can never speak negatives about your mate to someone else and still have your mate as a best friend.
- ➔ The most arrogant line – “You know what’s wrong with the body of Christ today?”
- ➔ I learned that as soon as you speak a negative, the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_.
- ➔ *Continuation of John and Beth’s story*
- ➔ God told me he sent me a human picture of the reaction of the Holy Spirit when you flippantly say a negative about another person.

## What Is Discernement?

*The Bible says that the gift of discernment is to \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 1:9)*

- ➔ We have clichéd the phrase “gift of discernment” to be negative.
- ➔ The gift of discernment is this: when you love someone, you want to encourage them and serve them and praise them. However, you don’t always serve them in the area they want to be served.
- ➔ *Example of Ralph and woman who wanted to join the church*



Notes

- ➔ A discerning person’s **S. O. P. (Standard Operating Procedure)** – to serve, encourage, and appreciate everyone they can with an \_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 9).
- ➔ *Example of loving people with an agenda*
- ➔ I give love with an agenda – to bring you closer to Christ.
- ➔ When someone is consistently arrogant, critical, negative, or prideful, the discerning person simply backs off.
- ➔ They understand that they don’t \_\_\_\_\_ give to everyone! They have to give all the time. Discerners live to give, but they don’t have to give to everyone!

## Judging vs. Discerning

*All judgment is “You didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ to me”. Judgers are \_\_\_\_\_; discerners are \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A discerner understands some huge caveats. Discerners understand that the one person I cannot hang around is a \_\_\_\_\_ person. If I hang around people that slander others then I will eventually slander others.
- *Example of reaching out in a new neighborhood*
- The discerner knows that they don’t have to give to everyone.
- *Video Presentation of Jesus*
  - He says “do not judge” and then “do not give” .... “do not give what is sacred to dogs...”.
  - Dogs or pigs are those Biblically who are unclean; unclean for Christians is a slanderer.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6 says that slanderers goes with whoremongers, adulterers, and homosexuals? It says have nothing to do with any of them.
- When do you confront people? You almost never should have to confront people, because discerners give and give and give, and when they back off the person says, “Why did you stop giving?” That’s when you give an honest answer.
- *Example of husband who stopped inviting parents to visit*
- If you hang out with a critical slanderer, eventually they will turn on you.
- **Scriptures**
  - **2 Corinthians** – the whole book is written to people who said to Paul, “You don’t give enough to us”.
  - **2 Corinthians 1:15** – Paul was going to visit and he cancelled his visit and they were so mad!
  - *Example of different sets of parents*
  - **2 Corinthians 1:23, 2:1** – “I don’t have to give to everyone”.
  - **2 Corinthians 6:11-13**
- *Video Presentation of Jesus (Matthew 20)*
- Giving isn’t giving unless it’s a gift. It can’t be demanded.
- If I speak negatively about person A to person B, who do I repent to? Person \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ignorance is bliss!
- **Psalms 101:4-5**

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 2 The Difference Between Judging and Discerning*

### *Discussion Questions*

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1. How different or similar were your definitions of judging and discerning from those given during this lesson?

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2. Gauge yourself in the three areas of judging: how quickly do you draw strong conclusions? How easily offended are you? How often do you speak negatively about others?

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3. Based on this teaching, to what degree do you walk in discernment?

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4. What is your reaction to the statement “I don’t have to give to everyone”?

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> (record your own answer for ‘judging is’) <sup>2</sup> (record your own answer for ‘discerning is’) <sup>3</sup> arrogantly  
strong conclusions <sup>4</sup> verdict <sup>5</sup> time <sup>6</sup> Why? <sup>7</sup> angry <sup>8</sup> easily offended <sup>9</sup> hurt <sup>10</sup> judgment <sup>11</sup> negatively  
<sup>12</sup> addiction <sup>13</sup> grumpier <sup>14</sup> leaves the room <sup>15</sup> increase love <sup>16</sup> agenda <sup>17</sup> have to <sup>18</sup> give enough <sup>19</sup> takers  
<sup>20</sup> givers <sup>21</sup> critical <sup>22</sup> B

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 3 How to Stop Judging*

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### Review

- Judges are takers. Discerners are givers.
- There's not a fine line between the two.
- Every time you say a negative word about any person or group, unless you are seeking counsel, you are judging.
- Every time you judge, you are saying, "You don't give enough to me!"
- On the other hand, discerners live to give. They ask, "How can I give to you more \_\_\_\_\_?"
- Discerners live to give but understand that you can give 100 pounds of serving and blessing to some people and only get 50 pounds of results because you didn't read the rivers of their heart well.
- Discerners have the tool of backing off on how much they give. Judges don't because they don't give.
- Main response to last sermon – "How do you stop?"
- Most people miss the very first step; it's not a negative step.
- Your tongue is a river that must be \_\_\_\_\_ in a direction.

### How Do You Stop Judging?

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Your Tongue*

- **James 3:9-12** – to curse a man means talking negative. How can you say, "You are worthy to be praised" while you cut down people? The fact that you're not blessing is the real root of why you have so much problem with cursing.
- *Story of family with teenagers*
- I'm going to teach you things in the coming weeks how to bless people, but today I'm going to teach you the alphabet. What I'm going to give you today is the key to all blessings.
- When you see each other 3 – 5 times a day, the look on your face is 90% of what you believe about each other. What you do in those 3 seconds will be 90% of what you believe about each other for the rest of your life.
- Everyone would rather be \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_.

### ○ How to Greet Someone

1. Raise the \_\_\_\_\_ of your voice (Rev 5:12). We will all sing loud in heaven because we will all be excited! This is completely across personalities. (*Example of Beth learning to raise her voice*).
2. Smile \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 15:30). Why would you not do this? Because you think they're not worth the trouble!
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (*Example of Jesus and the leper*). The fathers have to lead this challenge. In my house, you never walk by someone without touching them.
4. Use an extremely \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ phrase.
  - a. The Bible says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth." It's an intentional double negative ("Not" and "un"). It's a double emphasis on the positive. What it's really saying is, "Let every word of your mouth be wholesome."
  - b. Scripture commands me to speak to people in the context of his \_\_\_\_\_ person. When you criticize, you ignore the 99% that's wonderful and focus on the 1% that's negative. I'm commanded to speak to the whole person.
  - c. *Rest of story of parents and teenagers.*
  - d. Never call each other by your name or position.
  - e. They said, "It feels so fake" and I said it felt fake because you've been speaking sewer water for so long that fresh water feels weird. The main reason it feels fake is that all your antennas are on yourself.
  - f. It's not going to feel comfortable for two weeks to a year, depending upon your attitude, but your goal is not for everything to feel right to you. The goal is to bless this person who's a very dear blood relative. Your goal is to build them up according to their needs that it might benefit those who listen!
  - g. If you don't feel it, FAITH IT!
  - h. *Story of John's mom changing in third grade.*

## 5,142 Passages in the Bible on This Subject

### 20 Different Bible Studies

1. Approve (21 passages)
  - **2 Timothy 2:15** – put your greatest effort into recognizing that before you say, "Good morning heavenly Father", He's grinning and excited and can't wait to see you! This is about you and God in a \_\_\_\_\_. How do we teach this? Through our greetings.
2. Bless (428 passages)
  - **Romans 12:14**

3. Cheer (14 passages)
  - **Proverbs 12:25**
4. Comfort (79 passages)
  - **Isaiah 40:1**
5. Commend (24 passages)
  - **Romans 16:1**
6. Compassion (92 passages)
  - **Colossians 3:12**
7. Encourage (63 passages)
  - **Hebrews 10:12** – the reason you come to church is not for the worship or the Word, but foremost to be filled to bless. Scripture says that the closer we get to the return of Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ we will need encouragement.
8. Enthusiasm (2 passages)
  - **2 Cor 9:2** – enthusiastic means “to place God inside someone”. You’ve got to decide your leadership style – positive or negative.
9. Generous (22 passages)
  - **2 Cor 9:11**
10. Give or Gift (1,638 passages)
  - **Luke 6:38**
11. Glad (112 passages)
  - **Luke 15:32**
12. Kind (187 passages)
  - **2 Tim 2:24**
13. Love (797 passages)
  - **Romans 13:8** – we owe a debt of love to every person we meet.
  - **Proverbs 27:5** – this is a person that no longer has three choices but only two. Open rivers of affection isn’t an option so all they have is hidden love (being ignored) or open hostility. If I have to choose, I choose open hostility.
14. Praise (412 passages)
  - **Ephesians 1:12**
15. Refresh (20 passages)
  - **Proverbs 11:25**

16. Restore (107 passages)
  - **Psalm 23:3** – *example of parents of teenager*. Everybody wants people around us who think we are the neatest people on the planet, and everyone sought for that when you were kids. If you didn't get it, you are afraid to try again. The root of cynicism is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **Psalm 23:5** – how do you know when you've filled the cup of your mate? If you get a strong response, that means that their cup is empty. When their cup is full is when it's normal.
17. Revive (8 passages)
  - **Psalm 19:7**
18. Support (51 passages)
  - **Job 4:4**
19. Thanks (150 passages)
  - **Colossians 2:7** – everywhere you go, your heart explodes with thankfulness. You can't stop blessing. You will have crises in your life where your greatest weapon is thankfulness.
20. Words, Tongue, Speech (1,295 passages)
  - **Matthew 12:37**

# **Judging vs. Discerning**

## ***Lesson 3 How to Stop Judging***

### ***Discussion Questions***

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1. Based on what you learned in this teaching, rate yourself in the area of greeting your loved ones from 1 to 100 (1 being 'horrible' and 100 being 'fantastic'). Give a separate rating for how you greet each loved one.

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2. Of the four points listed about how to give a greeting, which one are you best at? Which one do you need to work on the most, and how can you work on it?

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3. Of the scripture categories, which one or two meant the most to you and why?

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> effectively <sup>2</sup> aimed <sup>3</sup> Reverse <sup>4</sup> hated <sup>5</sup> ignored <sup>6</sup> volume <sup>7</sup> largely <sup>8</sup> touch <sup>9</sup> affectionate <sup>10</sup> affirming  
<sup>11</sup> whole <sup>12</sup> greeting <sup>13</sup> more <sup>14</sup> fear

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 4 Judges are Takers, Discerners are Givers*

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### *Review of Last Week*

- We are continuing the subject of how to reverse your tongue.
- 90% of what you really think of me shows in your greeting. That dynamic is the door for all verbal blessings.
- Any time you say a negative statement about anyone where you're not seeking counsel, that's a judgment or slander.
- It's not enough just to stop the negatives, you've got to release the positives.
- All release starts with the greeting.
- *Story of woman who is not positive toward her son*
- Don't miss what I said the first week – three seconds, four or five times a day.
- *Story of couple with four kids*
- I gave four Bible points and 5,142 scriptures.
- *Story of woman who learned that God thinks she's wonderful*

### *Use Your \_\_\_\_\_ to Require People to Learn the \_\_\_\_\_ of Constantly Blessing*

- **Philippians 4:8** – Paul wrote out “whatever” all six times. He was giving a command.
- When you are irritated with someone, you feel like almost everything about them is \_\_\_\_\_. It's a temporary feeling and it isn't accurate. Paul would say to you, “Is there anything positive? Whatever you can find that is true, whatever you can find that is noble, if anything is excellent (even 1%) or praiseworthy, think about these things!”
- What's the highest authority any human will have? Parents. In marriage, you both have authority over each other. If you are a big brother or sister you have authority, a single adult, a 12 year old kid without siblings, etc.
- When and where do we exert this authority? You have authority based on influence or servant-heartedness and authority based on position, but there's a third aspect. You have authority based on how much God gives authority in that area.
- Does God give you the authority to require people around you to be positive, cheerful, and blessings?
- **2 Corinthians 10:8, 13:10** – Paul defines spiritual authority. The core purpose of authority is to build people up or to require people to build people up.

- What I'm going to do is ask you to cash in every ounce of authority you have to absolutely demand that everyone under your authority bless and not curse.
- *Example of principal at school who required everyone to be a blessing*
- There are a lot of teachers that don't believe they can require kids to be nice to each other, and they are the reason for the abuse. There are a few teachers that say, "If you say one unkind word about one student, I'll make you stand up in front of the class and say something positive about all thirty students." Should all teachers adopt that attitude? YES!

## *Seven Examples*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- One of the most painful things for a parent is when one of your own blood offspring is the one who is hurting your other blood offspring.
- Early on you learn that one of the best corrections when one sibling says something negative about another is, "You will now give me five positive things."
- When someone gives into judgment, there's a demonic power that consumes their being. When you stop in the midst of a habit of cursing and make them bless, it's like a wonderfully painful battle that goes on in their soul.
- The whole idea of punishment is that you want it to be very painful. If they give you five weak positives, tell them to give you ten or fifteen good ones.
- *Example from "A League of Their Own"*
- If your children speak unkindly, make them \_\_\_\_\_. Make them immediately say five positives. If they don't give five, make them give ten.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- My kids greet wonderfully but then will go four or five hours ignoring each other.
- I don't watch TV, but I permit a TV in the house. It's not allowed on while I'm in the house. The more TV you watch, the grumpier you get.
- I bought a \$10 egg timer and said, "Set the timer for 30 minutes, you two are to look at each other and give a one second blessing." I charge \$1 for any time they miss.
- You really can \_\_\_\_\_ your emotions. You can't control your emotions, meaning you can't stop having them, but you can guide the direction of your emotions. Your emotions don't control you, but the direction of your tongue guides your emotions.
- If you're feeling grumpy you can't stop that feeling, but you can choose to bless until your emotions start going the other way.
- Three or four times using the egg timer and everyone's nicer! I use my authority to require my family to bless!

- People need consistent, clear, long term \_\_\_\_\_ in order to develop disciplines. Blessing is a discipline. It's not a mood or a personality gifting, it's a discipline. Some people have a harder time with this discipline than others.
- Some people naturally bless. *Discussion of personality types.*
- I can't just say "Be nice", I have to treat it as a discipline.

3.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- In our church, if someone wants to join the church we take three months to a year just for me to get to know you and for you to find a small group.
  - I will tell you everything in my life; I ask you to tell me everything in your life.
  - Then, after you've given your life story and have been in a small group consistently for three months, we will meet with the small group and give out copies of your life story to your small group.
  - People worry and think, "If they really knew me they'd hate me." I will say to the group, "This person has given you a huge gift. Now, I am requiring you to bless this person." It's a life changing experience.
  - I require this. I use every ounce of authority I have to demand that we have a church of blessers.
  - We have some who can't do that and I say, "You're not called to Liberty Church."
  - It's a lot harder to judge people once you've seen their \_\_\_\_\_.

4.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- *Example of John and Beth encountering possible cheerleader while jogging*
  - Next to racism, the group that's most judged are cheerleaders. Why? When you're in high school, on a 0 – 100 scale, no one expects more than a 20 of graciousness unless you're a cheerleader, and then you're expected to be 100.
  - One of the reasons people hate cheerleading is because cheerleading is pure discipline to \_\_\_\_\_. Their job is to encourage the whole school!

5. *My*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Judges are \_\_\_\_\_, discerners are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A blamer says "My anger is your fault." Every negative statement unless you're seeking counsel or talking to the person is anger based.
  - Discerners say, "There are so many things about you that I appreciate."
  - *John's story of requiring his staff to be blessers*

6.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- *Example of new home group idea*
  - I require blessing people in home group several times a year.

7.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- We go around the table and everyone talks about their day. Then we say and we say one thing about someone at the table that you appreciate.

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 4 Judgers are Takers, Discerners are Givers*

### *Discussion Questions*

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1. Based on this teaching, what is your understanding of the authority individuals have to require people under their authority to be positive?

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2. Which of the seven ideas were the most helpful to you and why?

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3. How can you personally apply this teaching in your life (ie, who is under your authority that you need to start requiring them to be a blessing?)

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> Authority <sup>2</sup> Discipline <sup>3</sup> negative <sup>4</sup> Correction <sup>5</sup> suffer <sup>6</sup> Egg Timer <sup>7</sup> guide <sup>8</sup> structures  
<sup>9</sup> Welcome Interviews <sup>10</sup> pain <sup>11</sup> Cheerleaders <sup>12</sup> bless <sup>13</sup> staff <sup>14</sup> blamers <sup>15</sup> blessers <sup>16</sup> Home Groups  
<sup>17</sup> Dinner Table

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 5 Understanding People Who Make Judgmental Statements*

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### *Review*

- ✓ Judges are takers, discerners are givers.
- ✓ The heart complaint of a judger is, “You don’t give enough to me.”
- ✓ Judging is when you speak negative about any person or group to anyone except for when you are seeking counsel to go talk to that person and intend to tell that person everything you said.
- ✓ Judging is a cancer; everybody judges.
- ✓ What are you saying when you judge? We’re complaining that people aren’t giving to me or serving me enough.
- ✓ How do you stop?
  1. Reverse your tongue. 90% of what you really think of me shows in your greeting.
  2. Use your authority to require the discipline of constantly blessing.

### *Understand Why People Make Negative Judgmental Statements (or, Why I Make Negative Judgmental Statements)*

- ✓ Is it pain? Emptiness? Generational curses? Why do I do this?
- ✓ It is none of those things. If you believe one of these things, you’ve shifted responsibility for your sin to someone else.
- ✓ Why do I make negative judgmental statements? Because my \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ I cannot ever step into this pulpit and open the Word unless I am teaching you something that has powerfully and specifically changed my life.
- ✓ 80% of my prayer time is quoting the Word of God out loud. The Word of God read silently doesn’t have 1/10 of the power that it does reading it out loud.
- ✓ The reason we speak negatives is nothing but a raw, unclean heart.
- ✓ We’re going to speak out loud 21 passages in the Word of God.

## Scriptures (Repentance)

1. Romans 1:28-30
2. 1 Timothy 6:4-5
3. Proverbs 10:11
4. Proverbs 11:11-12
5. Proverbs 15:28
6. Matthew 12:34-35
7. Matthew 15:18
8. James 1:26
9. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:1
10. Isaiah 57:20, 21
11. James 3:8



Notes

- ✓ All you did was, in about 7 minutes, state out loud 11 passages from the Word of God.
- ✓ Your spirits are calm; there's a humility that you didn't even work for.
- ✓ Any sense of defensiveness is just evaporated.

### *What is my motive?*

- ✓ Whenever you gripe or complain, you don't want your audience to have been there when the incident happened. Why? Because at the root of why we slander and judge is because we want an audience where there is no one to \_\_\_\_\_ my opinion.
- ✓ If I gripe about someone and no one knows that person, who is the only source of information? Me! Who is the only one qualified to make a judgment? Me! You have no choice but to agree with the judge! It's a power grab.
- ✓ You are called to be a person of great power in your tongue, but there's a fleshly sense of power that says, "I'm it! No one argues with me!"

### Solution

I need \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- ✓ Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ - when you purge, you're not going to let your body do what's natural, but you vomit it back up. How many feel they have a calling to intercession? Here's how you know if you have a gift of intercession – a gift of intercession is when things that are not right \_\_\_\_\_ you!
- ✓ I am not telling you to be a panacea Pollyanna. I know that there are things that are wrong, painful, and irritating. The more they irritate you, the higher your calling of intercession.
- ✓ People who slander and judge and run their mouths are aborting a call to intercession.
- ✓ When those things come in you, you are supposed to wrestle them through in the presence of God until you have peace. You will find a prophetic word of power you can speak over that situation.
- ✓ If you go the other direction, you spew it up and have spiritual bulimia.
- ✓ **Philippians 4:6-8**
  - “by prayer”
  - “by petition” – \_\_\_\_\_ prayer when the situation gets worse. I am staying here until my prayer and petition becomes thanksgiving and the peace of God comes over me.

## Summary

1. Why Do I Slander? Because my heart's unclean.
2. What's the solution to my slander? Faith-filled intercession.

Understanding pain and emptiness and insecurities is never the  
problem, but it is part of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✓ Until you resolve the pain and garbage in your life, you will never enter into faith-filled intercession.
- ✓ When you get healed, you get a personal sense of great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ You get a sense of personal royalty. When you're a prince, princes don't mess around in the sewer.
- ✓ When you understand the power meant to come out of your tongue, you understand that your tongue is supposed to be so scary to Satan that when you speak, heaven listens, demons fear, and people's lives are changed. You want your tongue registered in hell as a lethal weapon!

## Scriptures (Faith-Filled Verses)

1. **Joshua 1:8**
2. **Psalm 17:3**
3. **Psalm 19:14**
4. **Psalm 71:8**
5. **Psalm 71:15**
6. **Psalm 81:10**
7. **Psalm 141:3** – Holy Spirit, convict me \_\_\_\_\_ I mouth off.
8. **Psalm 149:6**
9. **Matthew 8:9** – what about when you have to use authority to correct? Authority has to be given to you from the person underneath you (examples). Real authority is when the person over you values you and believes in you. When an authority believes in you, they cannot stop blessing you. When they correct you, it's from a heart of, "You could be so good!"
10. **Matthew 17:20**



Notes

## Conclusion

- ✓ American's are the second most overly dramatic people.
- ✓ One weakness is, sometimes we make too big of a deal about repentance.
- ✓ I didn't make a big deal out of it – I just said, "I was out of line, will you forgive me?"

# **Judging vs. Discerning**

## ***Lesson 5 Understanding People Who Make Judgmental Statements***

### ***Discussion Questions***

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1. Which two or three of the scriptures impacted your spirit the most and why?

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2. Based on this teaching, how can faith-filled intercession counteract the tendency to judge and slander people?

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3. Based on this teaching, how can a sense of dignity, destiny, and worth help you counteract the tendency to judge and slander people?

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> heart <sup>2</sup> clean <sup>3</sup> dispute <sup>4</sup> faith-filled intercession <sup>5</sup> bulimia <sup>6</sup> bug <sup>7</sup> repetitive <sup>8</sup> solution <sup>9</sup> dignity  
<sup>10</sup> destiny <sup>11</sup> worth <sup>12</sup> before

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 6 Choose Your Friends Carefully*

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### *Review of First Five Sermons*

- ✓ Judging, slander, complaining, and gossip are speaking negatives about any person or situation unless you are seeking counsel and intend to go to that person and tell them everything you said.
- ✓ Judging is a rampant disease, and to stop judging is swimming against a current.
- ✓ How to stop judging people.
  1. Reverse your tongue
    - a. 90% of what you really think of me shows in your greeting.
    - b. Use your authority to require people to learn the discipline of constantly blessing.
  2. Understand why people make negative judgmental statements
    - a. Because our hearts aren't clean.
    - b. The solution is to realize that everything about the tongue is power. When you speak life or death, it's a power trip.
    - c. Get consumed with a godly sense of power – I am a person sent from the king on a mission; I speak with authority, when I speak heaven responds, when I speak lives are changed, when I speak demons fear.
    - d. What happens with judgmental people is they want people to give their words great weight so they grab for \_\_\_\_\_.
    - e. When people pontificate, do those around them listen more or less? \_\_\_\_\_. What happens when griping, complaining negative people get tuned out? They do more! The more they do it, the more the people around them tune them out!
    - f. When will the number of people on earth outnumber the demons in hell? At some point, there's not going to be enough demons to go around! Satan's got to be smart about his assessment of demons and where he uses them. If he can get someone to be so negative and cause a cycle, he doesn't need to send a demon to them anymore because they've got themselves screwed up!
    - g. You were created in the image of God. There's something in our being that "our words carry weight". When you try to grab a false sense of self importance you get less and less until your words are nothing!
    - h. I need a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. *Comments on The Prayer of Jabez and The Purpose Driven Life*

# Choose Your Friends Carefully

## Three Questions

### # 1 – The purpose of friendship is NOT \_\_\_\_\_

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- ✓ What this roots back down to is 6 and 7 year old children who think that responsibility is drudgery and play is where the real life is. They pick friends not based on who will help them clean their room or help them with schoolwork, they pick friends based on people who will help them \_\_\_\_\_ from responsibility and now we can go play.
- ✓ The Bible says, “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man I put childish ways behind me.”
- ✓ Manhood is understanding that responsibility is life! That’s where the real riches are!
- ✓ What happens is that six year old boy believes that if he can play all the time life would be nirvana. Unfortunately that six year old boy may now occupy a 46 year old body! He’s still thinking that responsibility is drudgery and the real life is play. So he bases his friendships on “who will help me escape responsibility”.
- ✓ **Scriptures**
  - **Ecclesiastes 2:2** – “Laughter,” I said, “is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?” The whole book of Ecclesiastes is “what is the meaning of life” and early on he said “There’s a lot of people who think the ultimate goal in life is to have fun” (a hedonistic society). America is a hedonistic society. Solomon says, “That’s stupid! Nothing purposeful happens!”
  - **Jeremiah 15:16-17** – “when your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.” He said, “I’m an emissary of the king; I have a divine destiny to change lives!” Christianity by definition is a very intense calling. In this intensity, when you see people that think the only purpose in life, an indignation rises up that says, “Don’t you understand? There’s so much more to life! There’s so much destiny, purpose and power in your life!”
  - **Proverbs 13:20** – fools are people who want to play all the time. Friendships based on “Lets have fun together” often bring great destruction into your life. (Movie clip from ‘Ben Hur’). We’re made to “play” or rest 1/7 of the time; that’s good and necessary. We’re made that 84% of the time, we are consumed with passion and purpose.

## # 2 – *The purpose of friendship is* \_\_\_\_\_

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- ✓ There is a military type of camaraderie where we look at each other and say, “What’s the purpose of God in your life and may you fulfill it! How can I help you to fulfill it?”
- ✓ **Scriptures**
  - **Psalm 119:63** – if you love and follow Jesus, you are my friend!
  - **Proverbs 12:26** – I’m a righteous man and I’m very cautious about who I give friendship to.
- ✓ Here’s how I’ve wrestled this out in my life.
  - If someone wants to join this church, I tell them it’s a 3 – 12 month process.
  - Here’s the condition – you and I have to develop a deep friendship first and I ask you to develop a friendship with a congregation, with elders, and a small group.
  - I will tell you everything in my life, and then you tell me everything in your life.
  - There are a lot of people who don’t want me to know everything in their life and I say, “I understand. Trust has to be earned (I Corinthians 4:2). If it takes you a year or two that’s fine; I’m willing to take the time to earn your trust.”
  - Some respond, “You don’t understand. I don’t ever want people to know what’s going on in my life”.
  - The godlier you are, the more \_\_\_\_\_ you are. The reason people don’t want others to know what’s going on in their life is because they are protecting themselves. Biblically, our goal in life is not to protect ourselves, our goal in life is to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.
  - When you’re all out for Christ and not for yourself, you learn this secret. When you hide nothing in your life, they can’t use anything against you.
  - People that are very guarded and get very intense about not wanting people to know, their ultimate goal is self and not Christ.
  - When you are a man on a mission and you say, “I have a message for this world – He redeems flawed, fallen people”, then you expose your flaws!
  - In one sense I offer friendship to everyone, but in another sense I’m very cautious in friendship in the sense that there’s a two way street. I want people to get to know me but I want to get to know them.
  - If they’re not all out for Christ, then I don’t easily give friendship to people that are all about themselves.
  - The essence of the definition of friendship is not “let’s play together”, it’s “let’s strengthen each other in the purposes of God”!

✓ **Scriptures**

- **John 15:14**
- **Nehemiah 8:10** – is the joy of the Lord our goal in life? No! Joy is grace. Joy is our compass that \_\_\_\_\_ to the purposes of God. (*Example of using a compass*). My goal in life is to minister and bear fruit and expand the kingdom of God and the compass of joy will guide me. The joy of the Lord is my strength to accomplish the purposes of God! (*Example of elders meeting at church*).
- **2 Timothy 2:4** – soldiers deal with life and death. Yes soldiers need R & R but it's just recharging for the battle. Some die in the battle.
- **2 Corinthians 4:1** – everyone has hundreds of ministry callings and it's simple to find your calling.
  - Get your home settled, your church settled, and your small group settled. Then, all ministry is trial and error. Ministry is, "Where do you need me? Where can I serve?"
  - I believe I would have been a friend to the Apostle Paul because I wake up every morning and say, "What a merciful God that you would permit me to minister".
  - I meet people all the time that ministry is a burden. It is such a privilege and honor to minister, and if you don't think it is, we will never be close friends. I'm looking for teammates.

### # 3 – *The Biblical reasons to end friendships are*

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- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:11** list the six reasons to avoid other Christians.
  - Don't be close friends with non-tithers. They love money more than they love God.
  - The most subtle of them all – a slanderer. They tell you it's because they're hurt, that's the reason they talk negative about everybody. Hurt and slander are two separate subjects.
  - With such a person, do not even eat!
- ✓ **Proverbs 22:10**
- ✓ **Proverbs 21:24** – the Bible defines a mocker as a proud and arrogant man. When people judge, they believe they're the only ones who know the truth. Is it possible to have 10 – 20 people embroiled in a massive scene of strife and dissention and remove one person and all the strife goes away? Yes!
- ✓ **Psalm 1:1** – what does it mean to sit in the seat with someone? Fellowship!

✓ **1 Corinthians 15:33**

- *Story of John at Bible College.*
- *Story of pastor that John tried to help.*
- *Story of John praying about friendships.*
  - Look for friends who \_\_\_\_\_ when people are negative.
  - The anointing of God is not something you have or don't have. It's something that every time you speak life you have 1% more; every time you gripe and complain you have 1% less.



**Notes**

# Judging vs. Discerning

## *Lesson 6 Choose Your Friends Carefully*

### *Discussion Questions*

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1. “The purpose of friendship is not to relax and have some fun.” What is your reaction to this statement, and why?

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2. Describe friendships you’ve had or have where both parties are trying to strengthen each other in the purposes of God. How beneficial was/are these friendships to you?

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3. How transparent are you? In other words, how willing are you to expose the flaws in your life to trusted friends?

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4. Describe in your own words a time you would Biblically need to end a friendship.

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> self-importance <sup>2</sup> less <sup>3</sup> power <sup>4</sup> destiny <sup>5</sup> purpose <sup>6</sup> to relax and have some fun <sup>7</sup> escape <sup>8</sup> to strengthen each other in the purposes of God <sup>9</sup> transparent <sup>10</sup> crucify <sup>11</sup> guides us <sup>12</sup> sexual immorality, greed, idolatry, slander, drunkenness, swindling <sup>13</sup> wince

# Judging vs. Discerning

## Lesson 7 Pain Moves Us!

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### *Pain Moves Us*

*But it is our decision as to which direction it moves us!*

### **Review**

- # 1 - *If you want to stop judging, you have to reverse your tongue and bless people.*
  - a. *90% of what you really think of me shows in your greeting.*
  - b. *Use your authority to require people to learn the discipline of constantly blessing.*
- # 2 - *Why do I complain and gripe? Because our hearts are unclean. The solution is to get a sense that my tongue was meant to be a weapon of destiny and life.*
- # 3 - *Choose your friends carefully.*

### **Question**

“I understand that the Word of God says do not have friends who are slanderers. But what if the slanderer is my marriage partner?” Some said every person at my school does this, or every person at my job does this.

- ✓ I am not suggesting that we try to clean up the whole world. We live in a fallen world. There is an accepting of the fact that you will be around griping and complaining people for the rest of our lives and it makes us want to hide ourselves in the Word and drink of the Spirit every day.
- ✓ If you meet with God and eat of His word and drink of His spirit He will put a cocoon of protection around you so those things don't grate at your soul.
- ✓ 90% of all authority has nothing to do with position. You can grow into a place of such personal authority that you can require everyone around you not to complain. True authority comes from serving.

***Adversity Makes You \_\_\_\_\_ or***

- ✓ When things don't go my way, the degree of my reaction has \_\_\_\_\_ to the degree of wrong done against me. You can't say “I'm so angry because”.
- ✓ Mathematically and psychologically, the people who react the loudest are the ones who have suffered the least. Those who really suffer complain the least. Suffering is meant to release a grace and depth in our soul.

Beth Moore: “One of the strongest and most liberating truths in the Word of God is that God wants to bring good out of every pain in our lives.”

*\* Story of Woman’s Painful History \**



**Notes**

- ✓ Pain moves us! But we decide which direction it moves us. Everyone will face pain in this life and you are free to choose.
- ✓ **Hebrews 12:14-15** – follow peace or pursue peace with all men.
  - The Bible doesn’t say you are to like everybody or be friends with everybody or agree with everybody. It just says that you have to have peace in your heart toward every person.
  - Christians are always moving closer to Jesus, but be careful that you don’t stop. Why would you stop? Something painful happens and you say to grace, “Later”.
  - When you say later to the grace of God, a root of bitterness springs up.
- ✓ *Reflections on the story.*
- ✓ Gemma’s comment: “It’s such a privilege to help people.”

# **Judging vs. Discerning**

## *Lesson 7 Pain Moves Us!*

### *Discussion Questions*

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1. What most impacted you as you listened to the story of the woman with the painful history?

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2. What painful things have happened in your life that the Lord can use to draw you closer to Him?

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3. Summarize the main truths you have learned through the Judging vs Discerning series.

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**Fill in the Blank Answers**

<sup>1</sup> Bitter <sup>2</sup> Better <sup>3</sup> no connection