

Judgment, Judgment, Judgment – 1 Corinthians 4.1-5, Luke 12.41-48

Let's look at this word: 'Judgment'. Judgment is everywhere we look. World says that when we repeat God's Word, God's Standard, we are judging, and therefore are wrong, narrow-minded, barbaric. Some would say that approach to sharing the Gospel is wrong, or perhaps just a method of ministry is not effective. Such criticism can be discouraging. Sad reality is that such judgment is a fact of life. So let's open the Word for some encouragement about this daily judgment we face. (READ TEXT)

1. Judgment that matters Comes from the Lord. (verse 4)

- a. Paul cuts through it. The criticism were of the other factions. "I follow Apollos/Cephas/Jesus".
- b. Then there is his own judgment he dismisses, not because his conscience is clear, but because we need to remember that what we think, believe about ourselves can be deceptive.
- c. People may speak against us as we return to doing what the church ought to be doing. But Paul reminds us, the only judgment that matters is God's. All other is distraction.

2. Judgment Is Sure. (1.8)

- a. Knowing that only the Lord's judgment matters is empowering. It is also comforting.
- b. Back in 1.8, Paul gives us the promise that by our faith, God will judge us blameless.
- c. Yet that requires us to about the Work that the Lord has for us. Context – focus on the mission of the Church, spreading Gospel.

3. Our Response: Be Found Faithful

- a. Paul is telling the Corinthians, telling us to change our view: Instead of an elite clergy type, he and the others are just servants of the Lord, managing what the Lord has given.
- b. Jesus' parable is fitting. There will be those who live for self. There will be those who live for the Lord. And Paul promises that God will see us through Jesus' righteousness if we continue faithful.
- c. Faithful with the mission of the church – sharing the Gospel with the lost world. (4.16 – Paul encourages us to be imitators of him as well.) Are we therefore being the best stewards of what we have?