

Judge not Outline – Mike Baird

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Note: This is primarily from the chapter in the book "With Full Purpose of Heart" by Dallin H Oaks entitled "Judge Not and Judging". Also found in August 1999 Ensign

Two kinds of Judgments

- Dallin H Oaks
 " There are two kinds of judging: final judgments, which we are forbidden to make, and intermediate judgments, which we are directed to make, but upon righteous principles." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204s)

"Final Judgment"

- Dallin H Oaks
 " This is that future occasion in which all of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to our works (see 1 Ne. 15:33; 3 Ne. 27:15; Morm. 3:20; D&C 19:3)." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

"Intermediate Judgment"

- Dallin H Oaks

"In contrast to forbidding mortals to make final judgments, the scriptures require mortals to make what I will call "intermediate judgments." These judgments are essential to the exercise of personal moral agency." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204.)

Doctrine

- Matt 7:1-2

"Judge not, that ye be not judged.

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

- David O McKay

"The context of that scripture (Matt 7:1-3) plainly indicates that the sin the Savior is condemning is the disposition to look unfavorably on the character and actions of others, which leads almost invariably to the pronouncing of rash, unjust, unlovely judgments upon them. Very often these judgments are formed on insufficient evidence and after superficial observations" ("Pathways to Happiness" pg 282)

- John 7:22-24

"Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

Underlying Doctrine

- Matt 22:37-40

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Related Doctrine

- Doctrine of restoration

- Alma 41:14-15
"Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again.
For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored"
- See "Restoration" by Mike Baird
(<http://mikebaird.net/Church/GospelTopics/Restoration.pdf>)

Things not always as they might seem

- Riddle of big Indian and little Indian
 - Brother Wennerlund of Sweden
"There are two Indians, sitting on a fence, a big one and a little one. The big Indian says to the little Indian: 'You are my son'. The little Indian says to the big Indian: 'Yes, that is true, but *you* are not my father' (answer: the big Indian is the mother) (First heard at a youth conference "Bolliaden" in Sweden, 1977)

"I wasn't there"

- Mike Baird
"When I was first called as a bishop, Bishop Piper took some time to share wisdom from his personal experiences as a bishop. One thing he taught that has stuck with me and I've had reinforced through my own experiences is to never judge what another bishop might have said or done when sitting in judgment or in counseling someone. The reason is 'I wasn't there and don't know what direction was given by the Spirit'. " (Personal Experience, November 2002)

Behaviors

Slander, Fault finding

- David O McKay
" I know of nothing in our home life which will tend to influence young people to stray from the duties in the church or the path of virtue in the church so quickly and effectively as will faultfinding by parents; even talking carelessly about the weakness of bishops; even making slighting remarks about the Relief

Society teachers who come, or laughing at the ward teachers, or saying that the ward teachers' visits aren't effective. These things in the presence of children are like termites eating the foundation of your house, crawling up into the woodwork.

Parents, you may not see the evil effect of it all at once, but some time later in life when you find the character undermined, you may wonder what is wrong. Then, too late, you may discover that termites have undermined the faith—the termites of slander, of faultfinding." ("Pathways to Happiness" pg 282)

- N Eldon Tanner

"Gossip is the worst form of judging. The tongue is the most dangerous, destructive, and deadly weapon available to man. A vicious tongue can ruin the reputation and even the future of the one attacked. Insidious attacks against one's reputation, loathsome innuendoes, half-lies about an individual are as deadly as those insect parasites that kill the heart and life of a mighty oak. They are so stealthy and cowardly that one cannot guard against them. As someone has said, "It is easier to dodge an elephant than a microbe."'" ("Judge Not, That Ye Be Not Judged," Ensign, July 1972, pg 34)

Looking for the good in others

- David O McKay

"In each one of us probably there is a thorn in the character; there may be a dead leaf clinging to the reputation of some of us; there may even be dirt. We shall find it if we look for it. But in each one there is also a rose and a twig and a lily, and the Lord has told us to look for the best, to judge not that we be not judged, for with what judgment we judge we shall be judged, and the measure we mete to others shall be measured to us again" ("Pathways to Happiness" pg 109)

Do unto others

- Matt 7:12

"Therefore 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"

- John 8:7,10

"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....

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?"

- N Eldon Tanner
 "If Jesus were to stand by and be asked to judge those whom we accuse and should say to us, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her," and then should stoop and write in the sand, how many of us would feel to steal away ashamed, convicted in our own conscience? How sound is his counsel!" ("Judge Not, That Ye Be Not Judged," Ensign, July 1972, pg 34)

How does the Lord Judge?

- 1 Samuel 16:7
 "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, *but the LORD looketh on the heart.*"

Righteous Judgment

Subtitles in this section taken from Dallin H Oaks: "With Full Purpose of Heart", chapter entitled "Judge not and Judging" pg 191-204 .

- Dallin H Oaks
 " In the intermediate judgments we must make, we should take care to judge righteously. We should seek the guidance of the Spirit in our decisions. We should limit our judgments to our own stewardships. Whenever possible we should refrain from judging people until we have an adequate knowledge of the facts. So far as possible, we should judge circumstances rather than people. In all our judgments we should apply righteous standards. And, in all of this we must remember the command to forgive." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

Must, by definition, be intermediate

- Dallin H Oaks
 " It will refrain from declaring that a person has been assured of exaltation or from dismissing a person as being irrevocably bound for hellfire. It will refrain from declaring that a person has forfeited all opportunity for exaltation or even all opportunity for a useful role in the work of the Lord. The gospel is a gospel of hope, and none of us is authorized to deny the power of the Atonement to bring about a cleansing of individual sins, forgiveness, and a reformation of life on appropriate conditions." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

Will be guided by the Spirit of the Lord

- Not by anger
 - Satan stirs us up to anger not God
- Not by jealousy
- Not by self interest

Must be within our stewardship

- Dallin H Oaks

"Some time ago I attended an adult Sunday School class in a small town in Utah. The subject was the sacrament, and the class was being taught by the bishop. During class discussion a member asked, "What if you see an unworthy person partaking of the sacrament? What do you do?" The bishop answered, "You do nothing. I may need to do something." That wise answer illustrates my point about stewardship in judging." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

If possible, refrain from judging until adequate knowledge of the facts

- Arthur R. Bassett (BYU Professor)

"I was troubled when one person whispered to another all through the opening prayer. The guilty parties were not hard to spot because they continued whispering all through the class. I kept glaring at them, hoping that they would take the hint, but they didn't seem to notice. Several times during the hour, I was tempted to ask them to take their conversation outside if they felt it was so urgent—but fortunately something kept me from giving vent to my feelings.

"After the class, one of them came to me and apologized that she hadn't explained to me before class that her friend was deaf. The friend could read lips, but since I was discussing—as I often do—with my back to the class, writing at the chalkboard and talking over my shoulder, my student had been 'translating' for her friend, telling her what I was saying. To this day I am thankful that both of us were spared the embarrassment that might have occurred had I given vent to a judgment made without knowing the facts" ("Floods, Winds, and the Gates of Hell," Ensign, June 1991, 8)
- Dallin H Oaks

"There is one qualification to this principle that we should not judge people without an adequate knowledge of the facts. Sometimes urgent circumstances require us to make preliminary judgments before we can get all of the facts we desire for our decision making." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

Whenever possible refrain from judging people and only judge situations

- Dallin H Oaks

"This is essential whenever we attempt to act upon different standards than others with whom we must associate—at home, at work, or in the community. We can set and act upon high standards for ourselves or our homes without condemning those who do otherwise." ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

Forgiveness is a companion principle

- Luke 6:37

" Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: *forgive, and ye shall be forgiven* "

Apply righteous standards

- Moroni 7:18

"Seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged"

- Too harsh

- Dallin H Oaks

" A standard can be unrighteous because it is too harsh—the consequences are too severe for the gravity of the wrong and the needs of the wrongdoer " ("With Full Purpose of Heart", pg 191-204)

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Consequences of Unrighteous Judgment

- Luke 10:40-42

"But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from he"

- Catherine Corman Parry (BYU Professor)
 "The Lord acknowledges Martha's care: 'Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things' (Luke 10:41). Then he delivers the gentle but clear rebuke. But the rebuke would not have come had Martha not prompted it. The Lord did not go into the kitchen and tell Martha to stop cooking and come listen. Apparently he was content to let her serve him however she cared to, until she judged another person's service: 'Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me' (Luke 10:40). Martha's self-importance, expressed through her judgment of her sister, occasioned the Lord's rebuke, not her busyness with the meal" ('Simon, I Have Somewhat to Say unto Thee': Judgment and Condemnation in the Parables of Jesus," in *Brigham Young University 1990–91 Devotional and Fireside Speeches* [1991], 116)



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