

Judge not Outline – Mike Baird

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Introduction

- Have you ever felt misjudged?
 - How did you feel?

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 (Savior after healing on the Sabbath)
 "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."
- Not that we don't judge but that we judge righteously

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."

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" ("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.)

Behaviors

Unrighteous judgment behaviors

- When we judge unrighteously what are the resulting behaviors?
 - Slander
 - Fault finding
 - Gossip
 - 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)

Righteous judgment behaviors

- When we judge righteously what are the resulting behaviors?
 - Looking for the good in others
 - Show love & compassion
 - Show understanding
 - Do unto others

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)

- Why so important?
 - Because " For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."
 - Only way to be happy in life

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

- 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)

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

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 "Bolladen" 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)
- 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"