**Right Judgment**

 *“Judge not, that you be not judged.****2****For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.****3****Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?****4****Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?****5****You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (Matthew 7:1-5, ESV)*

 Right judgment comes from a humble heart.

 Greetings dearly beloved in Christ, as we continue to follow Jesus’ ethical teachings today. We’re talking about judgment, something that we see, hear and do every day. So, what is right judgment, and what does it mean for us in our daily lives? My hope is that this message will be an opportunity for all of us to examine our standards of judging, so that we too, like the Lord said, make sound, right judgments. Again, right judgment comes from a humble heart – so let’s talk about it…

 Since only God is perfectly just, right judgment, in our case, always begins with us who do the judging. God is absolutely just – any judgment that He makes will always be right in all its aspects. Mankind’s judgment, however, is often unjust, because it is not founded upon God and His teachings. Jesus says, “Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged.” But He did not say, “let’s suspend our ability to judge and become accepting of every deed and event.” Rather, what the Lord was saying was, “Judge rightly, so that you yourselves are judged in the same way.” This principle was known among the sages of the day already – the Lord was stressing, however, the reason why so many were being condemned by God.

 If a man judges out of meekness, he does so, knowing that the final judgment always belongs to God. Therefore, remembering that he also will be judged one day, makes his judgment gently, with balance and holiness as standards. A humble heart examines his own problem to ensure that it does not harden his heart and cause him to judge harshly or severely. A humble heart first cleans out his own inner turmoil and sin, giving it to the Lord or working for reconciliation with people when needed, and only then giving his judgment on a matter. Otherwise, a person’s inner filth can blind him just as when our eyeglasses are covered with dust and we cannot see well enough thru them to organize our own home. Another example might be: let’s say that someone has wounded you personally. If you’ve had similar wounds in the past to the extent that you have not released or forgiven the perpetrators of the past, that festering wounded and angry state within you from the past will bring about an imbalanced judgment on the current issue at hand. First, forgive those who wounded you in the past, and examine yourself to see if you are approaching the matter at hand humbly, remembering that God will use the same standard to judge you one day. Then, once you’ve forgiven those in the past, you’ll be able to rightly judge the current situation in which you find yourself.

 What more can we say, then? God expects that our judgments be made out of meekness. Of course we need to express what is right and wrong! Of course we ought not hide sin and injustice! However, all the above needs to. Be done in a humble manner – not inflamed or inspired by previous wounds or unresolved issues. Therefore, let us judge rightly. Let’s do it with a humble heart, with pure motives, remembering the standard of the Final Judgment of God (spoken of by Jesus in these verses).

Since only God is perfectly just, right judgment, in our case, always begins with us who do the judging. Right judgment comes from a humble heart. The Lord bless you all. Amen.