



No Growth - Judge

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Matthew 7:1

Jealousy - Proverbs 6:34

Undermine - Ezra 4:4

Division - John 7:43

Grudge - James 5:9

Eyes - Proverbs 30:12

Why do people judge others? There could be several reasons, but the most common is associated with jealousy. How is this possible? First, people do not look at or approach others and start evaluating them for no reason. There has to be something that catches their attention first for them to criticize someone else. Otherwise, why would anyone waste time and energy doing it?

Judgmental people are the ones that have it the worst because the battle is in their minds. Nothing usually is done wrong against the person they have issues with, but the fact that something bothers them to judge the person could affect their behavior as they continue to watch. The attention a judging person gives to the innocent one will only create the temptation for animosity. A believer falling into this trap will not be serving the Holy One but catering to evil intentions. Judgmental to jealousy to finally have the urge to create difficulty for the innocent is dangerous, and that person needs to ask God for help.

An example of jealousy and difficulty was Saul towards David in First Samuel Eighteen, verse two. In the beginning, nothing wrong between them since Saul was the leader of Israel while David was still a youth. However, when David overcame Goliath of the Philistines, anybody would say it would cause jealousy. Still, nothing changed until Saul's son, Jonathan, in verse one of the same chapter, caused him to take notice.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his soul.

The attention from Jonathan to David created Saul to draw consideration of this new situation. In verse five, Saul even promotes David. "And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely: Saul set him over the men of war, accepted in the sight of all the people and the vision of Saul's servants." However, in verse six, when David came from the slaughter of the Philistines, the women from all the cities of Israel with singing, danced, and musical instruments. The following verse may have changed the behavior of Saul with the ladies chanting: "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul, hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousand." Saul was furious with the celebration of the women regarding the slaying of his output being compared to David's in verse eight. Still, verse nine entails the response and his demeanor to the youngest of Jesse's sons. "And Saul eyed David from that day and forward." Why would he do that? The public attention David received from the women chanting got now the scrutiny from Saul.

To judge is to weaken. The person determining another will not show any cooperation towards them. They will use different ways to develop some conflicts to express displeasure in whatever has gotten their attention in the first place. The judger will attempt to cause the innocent person to divert the situation that has drawn their focus. A believer should not have this approach to anyone but have their focus on God and Him alone.

In Acts Eight, Simon, the former sorcerer, tries to convert to be like Philip, a servant of God. In verse thirteen of the same chapter, Simon

believes, receives baptism, and continues with Philip. However, he wonders in amazement at the miracles and signs that the Holy Spirit did through Philip. "And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands, the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost." Although Simon received baptism and claims to believe, his attempt to undermine the servant of God in buying the Holy Spirit did not work: the spiritual gifts that come from God are not for sale.

To judge is to cause division. A person who examines another will cause separation from others towards the same person because they misunderstand them. People can influence another by their reaction against the innocent. Instead of inquiring about something regarding that person, they choose to predict which is dangerous. Interpretation about someone from the judges perspective will never be accurate. John chapter seven shows a steady progression in the people's reaction to Jesus. Earlier in this chapter, that response was gossip and private discussion, as in verses twelve through thirteen. Eventually, this turned into complaint and questioning. When people do not understand someone or something about the person, they tend to reject the person and show a negative attitude to influence others. Believers should not condone this behavior because it is not showing love towards another but the opposite.

To judge will eventually hold a grudge. That is the danger for someone who allows themselves into such a state. To examine a person and see something that gets your attention and then have some hard feelings without any reason other than what they have or do is a complete disgrace. For a believer, God knows these things and sees right through our being, and eventually, it will catch up with those who practice such behavior. The story of Saul and David is an example of a King holding a grudge for no reason other than how he conducts himself before the Lord. King Saul eyed David after witnessing his son Jonathan who loved David, in First Samuel eighteen verse one. Then verse seven, the celebration of the women chanting about Saul's slaying of thousands to David's ten of

thousands. Saul's grudge against David continued to build after anything he heard regarding him or what he did. The situation with Saul was so severe that it affected their relationship with his son Jonathan.

In First Samuel nineteen, verses four through five, Jonathan confronts his father Saul regarding David. "And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul, his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* to thee-ward very good. He put his life in his hand, slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest *it*, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?"

Jonathan and Saul meet at the dinner table, and David is not with him in verses twenty-seven to thirty in chapter twenty of First Samuel. "And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second *day* of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan, his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday nor to day? And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *me to leave* for Bethlehem. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?"

Then in verses thirty-one through thirty-four. "For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die. And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? What hath he done? And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him, whereby Jonathan knew that his father had determined to slay David. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David because his father had done him shame." To Judge is a grudge.

To judge is, to begin with, the eyes. Self-righteous individuals think they are morally and spiritually clean. Yet their self-centered, pretentious attitude makes them

filthy in God's sight. The Israelites in Isaiah's day thought adherence to religious ceremonies and sacrifices made them acceptable to God, but they were mistaken. God said they were sinful and loaded with iniquity, as in Isaiah one verse four. He commanded: "Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes as in Isaiah One verse sixteen.

Why do people judge others? Individuals do it to excuse their sinful activity in this area. Instead of watching what they do, they are not satisfied with themselves, so judges express an attitude towards the innocent person they pay attention to due to jealousy. However, they are afraid to admit it and hide the problem by judging others, which is wrong.