



He Must Increase; I Must Decrease

(James 4:11-17)

No Judgement or Proper Judgement?

“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. **He who speaks evil** of a brother and **judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law.** But if you judge the law, **you are not a doer of the law but a judge.** **There is one Lawgiver,** who is able to **save** and to **destroy.** **Who are you to judge another?”** James 4:11-12 NKJV

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☑ **The Power of Words** (See: [Life & Death: the Tongue](#) & [Life & Death: Bits and Rudders](#))

☑ Death and Life

☑ **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue,** And those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21 NKJV

- ☑ It becomes obvious that words have power, so much power that they can cause either of both extremes.
- ☑ The Tongue (from previous in James)
- ☑ **“Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.** See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. **The tongue** is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and **it is set on fire by hell.** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. **It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”**
James 3:5-8 NKJV
- ☑ Death: Fire, hell, and deadly poison!
- ☑ Corrupt Words & Evil Speaking vs. God’s Grace
- ☑ **“Let no corrupt word** proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may **impart grace to the hearers.** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you,** with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted,

forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV

- ☑ Life: grace to the hearers!
- ☑ Admonition
 - ☑ "For "**He who would love life And see good days**, Let him **refrain his tongue from evil**, And his lips from speaking deceit." I Peter 3:10 NKJV
 - ☑ If you love the life part rather than the death part... keep your tongue from speaking evil!
- ☑ **Speaking Evil Defined**
 - ☑ Words of hate, death, accusation and condemnation.
 - ☑ ""You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. **And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!'** shall be in danger of the council. But **whoever says, 'You fool!'** shall be in danger of hell fire." Matthew 5:21-22 NKJV
 - ☑ Raca: Words of contempt; "You are a worthless nothing!" These word kill! Satan inhabits the words of contempt!

- In contrast: “But You are holy, Enthroned in *[inhabits]* the praises of Israel.” Psalms 22:3 NKJV
- The Enemy’s chief strategy...accusation (words of death)
- “Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and **Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.** And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “**From going to and fro on the earth,** and from walking back and forth on it.”” Job 2:1-2 NKJV
- Doing what? “*Seeking whom he may devour.*”
- “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour.**” I Peter 5:8 NKJV
- How? “*Accuser of our brethren!*”
- “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**” Revelation 12:10
- A proper defense...Forgiveness. “*lest Satan should take advantage of us.*”

☑ “Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, **I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us**; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” II Corinthians 2:10-11 NKJV

☑ **Speaks Evil = Judges his Brother**

☑ When you speak evil to or of your brother, you are murdering your brother with your words. This is acting as if you have the power to condemn them to hell. This is what the Scripture means when it compares speaking evil to judging.

☑ **Speaks Evil = Speaks Evil of the Law**

☑ Naturally then, speaking evil would then equate with misappropriation of God’s law. God’s commands are meant to guide, direct and correct behavior. In other words, the Law itself condemns behavior that is contrary to God’s ways. There is no need for you to insert yourself into God’s Law.

☑ **Speaks Evil = Judges the Law**

☑ In then you are misappropriating God’s laws, it’s as if you are saying they are not good enough the way they are. You need to intervene to improve them by inserting

yourself. Think about the arrogance of this, in contrast to the truth about God's laws!

☑ God's Law is...perfect, sure, right, pure, true, righteous—by THEM (not you) His people are warned—by KEEPING THEM there is great reward.

☑ **“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”** Psalms 19:7-11 NKJV

☑ **Judges the Law = not a doer of the law**

☑ —by them Your servant is warned, And **in keeping them** there is great reward...

☑ Excerpt from [“The Coin Has Two Sides”](#): See this teaching for a detailed explanation of what it means to be a “doer of the Law.” When you are judging the Law you are certainly not “keeping a the law”.

☑ **Clarification: Doing (keeping) vs. Works**

Doing the Law: “(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but **the doers of the law** will be justified;” Romans 2:13 NKJV

Works of Law: “Therefore **by the deeds [works] of the law** no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20 NKJV

☑ It becomes obvious when you see these ideas side-by-side that “doing the law” and “works of law” cannot mean the same thing. Doing implies action that must be related to faith—you are saved by faith to do work. We will call this grace-empowered-faith-based obedience. Work then, must therefore imply you are doing or taking action without faith, which can save no one. This is called legalism.

☑ **Discerning vs. Judging!**

☑ It is critical that you are able to distinguish the difference between judging your brother in the form of condemnation, and judging and even exposing sinful behavior. We are to be discerning and it is altogether appropriate to see sin and call it out. In fact, you are not only permitted to, but required to do so!

☑ We will judge...

- ☑ “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? **Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? **Do you not know that we shall judge angels?** How much more, things that pertain to this life?” 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 NKJV
- ☑ We must not judge in any way that we are unwilling to face ourselves...that would be blatant hypocrisy!
- ☑ “For **with what judgment you judge, you will be judged;** and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? **Hypocrite!** First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.” Matthew 7:2-5 NKJV
- ☑ **Love and Sin:** Standing by and watching sin, and saying nothing about it, is not love—it is HATE! In other words, saying nothing is condemnation!

- ☑ **“You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take **vengeance**, nor bear any **grudge** against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.”**
Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

- ☑ *“There is **one Lawgiver**, who is **able to save and to destroy**. **Who are you to judge another?**” James 4:12 NKJV*

- ☑ **One Lawgiver**

- ☑ Who? Y’shua from the tribe of Judah!

- ☑ “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a **lawgiver** from between his feet, **Until Shiloh comes**; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”
Genesis 49:10 NKJV

- ☑ What? Only the Lawgiver is able to save and to destroy...

- ☑ He alone has the power to condemn you to an eternity of suffering or gift you with an eternity in the presence of God!

- ☑ **Who are you to judge another?**

- ☑ Condemn no; Correct/Rebuke/Admonish—YES!

If the Lord Wills...

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; **whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow.** For **what is your life? It is even a vapor** that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, **“If the Lord wills,** we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, **to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”** James 4:13-17 NKJV

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☑ What about tomorrow?

☑ ““Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **For after all these things the Gentiles seek.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these

things shall be added to you. Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.** Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:31-34 NKJV

☑ **Vapor— drink offering.**

☑ Life is temporary, much like the steam that is created when you pour wine on a raging fire. That is what is called the “drink offering.” Your lifespan is that ANYWAY, so you might as well pour out yourself (your life) on His altar, go all in with a life for God! Paul lived that life!

☑ “Yes, and if I am being **poured out as a drink offering** on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.” Philippians 2:17 NKJV

☑ “For I am **already being poured out as a drink offering,** and the time of my departure is at hand.” II Timothy 4:6 NKJV

☑ A life that is treated as if you are a glass of wine being sprinkled over a raging fire, immediately evaporated into steam (your life is a vapor), is the life you must choose! Or, you can choose a life obsessed with you own wants and desires, telegraphed by worry and anxiety about tomorrow.

☑ Note to self: that is precisely what pagans do!

☑ **This is what a life poured out like a drink offering looks like...**

☑ **“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.** He who has ears to hear, let him hear! “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden in a field,** which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field.** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a **merchant seeking beautiful pearls,** who, when he had **found one pearl of great price,** went and **sold all that he had and bought it.”** Matthew 13:43-46 NKJV

☑ “I am all in! I will cash in or cash out! I am ready to leave it all behind for the greater treasure. I will not spend one more moment worrying about tomorrow!”

☑ *“Instead you ought to say, **“If the Lord wills,** we shall live and do this or that.” But now you **boast in your arrogance.** All such **boasting is evil.**”* James 4:15-16 NKJV

☑ **If the Lord Wills**

☑ And it all comes down to this very submission. “If the Lord wills.” Can YOU get out of the way and let Him shine through? Can you throw yourself on the fire and become a vapor?

- ☑ Not my will...it should be self-explanatory!
- ☑ “Then He said to them, “**My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.** Stay here and watch.” He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. **Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.**”” Mark 14:34-36 NKJV
- ☑ I don’t want to “sell it all” and go after the real treasure. I’d rather opt out if I am being honest. However... However, I choose Your will God and therefore I will give it all, even my own life!
- ☑ ““If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, **and his own life** also, he **cannot be My disciple.** So likewise, whoever of you does not **forsake all** that he has **cannot be My disciple.**” Luke 14:26, 33 NKJV
- ☑ I’m not my own...
- ☑ “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price;** therefore glorify God in your body and in

your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20
NKJV

- ☑ That is the attitude you must have—Your life is not your own, any longer, because it was purchased in a ransom swap, His life for yours. Since this is true, you might as well start living as such.
- ☑ What do you see?
 - ☑ “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:17-18
NKJV
 - ☑ When you look in a mirror, the more often you live life as if the swap is real, the more you will see Christ staring back at you.
- ☑ **How? Become transparent! “He must increase, but I must decrease.”**
- ☑ Get it in your head. A man does nothing of his own...
 - ☑ “John answered and said, “**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.**” John 3:27 NKJV

- ☑ Get out of the way! When someone looks at you, they see through you and see Him! It is no longer you who live—it is He who lives in you!
- ☑ “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 NKJV
- ☑ “I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 NKJV
- ☑ **How do I get there?**
 - ☑ Become transparent. Your life is not your own. His will and not your will. Look in the mirror; what do you see?
 - ☑ “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” I Cor. 11:1
 - ☑ Option: Do you want to leave me? There is nothing else.
 - ☑ “Then Jesus said to the twelve, “**Do you also want to go away?**” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, **to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.** Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”” John 6:67-69
- ☑ **Delight yourself...** *“Do not fret, trust, delight, commit..”*
 - ☑ “**Do not fret** because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. **Trust in the Lord,**

and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself** also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. **Commit your way** to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass." Psalms 37:1-5 NKJV

☑ **Boasting in Arrogance**

☑ From last week— *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."* James 4:10 NKJV

☑ *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."* James 4:17 NKJV

☑ **Sin is...**

☑ Lawlessness

☑ "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**. And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him." I John 3:4-6 NKJV

☑ "Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **He who sins is of the devil**, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of**

God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God **does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and **he cannot sin**, because he has been born of God." I John 3:7-9 NKJV

Love is...

Obedience

""If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**" John 14:15 NKJV

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when **we love God and keep His commandments.** For **this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.** And His commandments are not burdensome." I John 5:2-3 NKJV

Three types of sin

Do! "Thou shalt..."

Do Not! "Thou shalt not..."

He who knows... "Let's get personal. I am talking to you, specifically. If I tell you to do something or not to do something, and you disobey, it is sin!"

NEXT TEACHING

Where Your Treasure is... (James 5:1-6)