

JUDGING OTHERS

LESSON 11: RED LETTER BUSINESS

The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Joel became a Christian at an early age and never really veered off the path too far. He has always been plugged into his church, has regular time in the Word, and serves as he has time. After 10 years of working his way up the ladder, Joel has become the manager of a production floor in a manufacturing plant. Leadership of the company recognized Joel's expertise and knowledge in producing virtually every part they make. Joel's mind is sharp, and he is constantly thinking about better and more efficient ways to make the parts. You can see him every day on the production floor mirroring his team giving them advice as how to do their job's better and more efficiently. Sometimes he will call the team members into his office individually and give them very detailed correction not only in their work but also advise in their personal lives based on his observations. Joel means well and really cares for his team but can come across blunt and critical. On one occasion Joel decided to start a Bible Study at lunch for his guys but all he received was excuses. Discouraged, Joel put all his focus on helping the guys do better in their work and increased the amount of time he spent going from station to station to criticize and correct. To this day Joel feels distant and disconnected with his team. This is his biggest concern but does not know how to connect with them.

- Q. How would you counsel Joel to connect with his team?
- Q. What do you think are some idols in Joel's life?
- Q. What do you think Joel's spiritual life looks like?
- Q. Which of the beatitudes do you think Joel struggles with?

MATTHEW 7: 1-6

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

⁶ *“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

I bet you never knew that the airlines were so scripturally based as they always say to “put your mask on before you help others with theirs”! When I was younger, I was very critical and judgmental of others. It wasn’t until I was knocked down by life a few dozen times and humbled that I had more grace for others. Judging others can take on many forms in our lives such as being critical, sarcastic, gossiping. It is usually a coping mechanism we use to lift ourselves up and usually we judge people more severely on the very things we struggle with. Having a judgmental spirit can be a direct hindrance to a full and complete life in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a judgmental or critical spirit within you. Many times, being judgmental is a subtle sin that creeps in on your life and can render you ineffective in your Christian walk.

- Q.** What do you think would be considered as judging others?
- Q.** Who are we not to judge?
- Q.** Does this passage mean we should not have a court system?
- Q.** How can you remove the speck from a brother’s eye without judging?
- Q.** What are some ways to guard against being judgmental?
- Q.** What does v6 have to do with the intent of this passage? Who are the dogs? What is sacred?