

Below is an important word to Nate which would be valuable for all of us to consider.

I believe this happened a day or two after the Sunday [George iii] had preached about judging and judgments.

I was in my living room, praying and listening to a worship CD, when the Presence of God came upon me in a real and physical way that pushed me onto the ground. It was as if I was taken into a Spirit realm and instantly saw the last several years of my life. In what felt like an instant, I could see all the faces of most of the people I knew, and the knowledge I had about them came to me as clearly as their faces. It was as if the recognition of their face contained all the knowledge I had of them.

In another instant the Spirit of God showed me that in my life I had built up a form of judgment against the people I saw. Maybe not intentionally or to the point where I purposely took or gave offense, but it was as though I had locked each individual within the realm of my revelation of their identity as I saw it. I had not seen them, called them, or released them into the revelation God has of their identity.

I saw how, over the course of my life, my limited revelation of how I saw and perceived and knew people was founded on unrighteous judgments. I felt terribly convicted by what I was being shown. As I saw this, I also saw it as four knives in my lower back. They were large, ornate knives (hunting-type knives) that appeared to be stainless steel with gold trimming around the hilt and handle. I would guess each blade was 5" long, each handle was 4" long, and each blade was 2.5-3" wide. Even almost two weeks later, I can still see them clearly in my mind.

I was shocked to have not noticed them before, and I couldn't believe that every move I made didn't send shocking pain through my body. However, as I looked at them I instantly understood that the blade became fluid-like when I moved and solidified again when I was not moving.

In my body for the past several months, I have had a dull, penetrating lower back pain. I don't notice it much when I am working and active, but when I am inactively sitting or lying down, it becomes very uncomfortable. I have felt that my lower back has been getting weaker and more painful in spite of stretching, increased exercise, and going to the chiropractor.

As I began to repent for allowing these unrighteous judgments to have been built and maintained in my life, the knives were removed one at a time and the back pain left with them and has not returned.

Then when I was done repenting, I received forgiveness. At that point, it was as if I came back into my mind and it was over. Or maybe it's just beginning, I am not sure.

After considering the above word from Nate, you carefully and prayerfully consider the following.

RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENTS

[Mat 7:1-5] *Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. (3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."*

We are constantly faced with the need to pass judgment. We were taught as babes to judge based on some system. As Christians we do not wish to appear judgmental, so we take care not to expose ourselves to that charge by keeping our judgments to ourselves – or mostly to ourselves. Or maybe – just one or two others who might benefit from our 'insights' – or judgments.... for the purpose of spiritual understanding and prayer... [*of course*].

But is it still “judging” even if we are careful not to tell anyone? If I can see your selfishness or laziness and I judge you by my own value system to be selfish or lazy, but I keep it all to myself. Is that judging? Or I see your religious posturing... *at least that is what I think it is* – and make a mental note to self: “Self, Suzie is using her religion to get attention and approval. Boy, is that stupid! [not to be judgmental or anything! (“*And remember, self, don't say anything to anyone. Amen.*”)].”

No one knows that I have judged you or Suzie, so I escape the penalty of judging aside from God’s judgment – right? **[Absolutely NOT RIGHT!]**

GOD KNOWS and HE IS THE **ONE** WHO really matters! [*Gulp!*]

Seeing a fault in our brother should rather cause us as REICPIENTS of mercy, to consider our own areas of failure [past and present]. Am I also

selfish? Even a little bit – selfish..... perhapsin a different way and area? Or lazy? Am I also guilty of religious posturing*hmmmm*? [**God knows.**] Do I want people to respect me for my deep, deep spirituality? I wonder what GOD thinks about all this. Does it matter what HE knows about me even if no one else knows? What is the log that is stuck in MY eye? [*gulp, again*]

Judging others by our own value system [even secretly] separates us from the one judged ...**and from GOD**. [*Definitely not a good thing!*] Our past judgments are likely to cause us to be even more critical of the one judged in the future, as well as nearly everyone else we know or hear about. This sort of judging generates more still more judging, and eventually we will begin to reap what we have sown [even in secret].

An even more serious issue is that our personal judgments of others separate us from God and HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS because in passing our judgments we have arrogantly displaced God Who **IS** THE JUDGE, rather than acknowledging that we, ourselves, are needy defendants who also desperately need mercy in HIS court.

If when seeing a fault in our brother we were to welcome God to show us our own need and His heart concerning both us and our brother, we would identify more closely with our brother in his weakness. Rather than separating, those observations would bring us closer to him as we seek the LORD for mercy for ourselves as well as for him. That intercession calls upon the Righteous Judge for mutually-needed mercy which when granted is beneficial to each of us. God was right when He said, "**Judge not...**". And, as the Righteous Judge renders mercy in forgiveness, He also releases understanding and freedom to live and walk in the better place of His kingdom order. On occasion, if we allow Him to be the Judge, He might even give us the His Godly wisdom and ability to help our brother with instruction or encouragement in righteousness.

That is why Jesus said, "***Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.***" [Joh.7:24] "**Righteous judgment**" does not flow out of the natural man or his natural abilities, i.e. what he sees, or hears, or deduces with his intellect. "Righteous judgments" are the judgments of the Righteous God Who alone is the Righteous Judge. God desires to reveal those "judgments and truths" to His children as HE establishes His kingdom in our lives and through our lives in the world around us.

All through history, God has revealed His will and accomplished His purposes through His children who sought, heard, and obeyed HIM. Hebrews chapter eleven contains a small list of men and women who mightily represented God and His purposes and judgments during their brief stays on the earth. In the fullness of time when Jesus appeared, mankind entered a new level of knowing and experiencing the purposes of God. Jesus is the example of righteous judgments for all the sons of God and reveals His secret when He said, *"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."* [Jn.5:30]

FIVE IMPORTANT THINGS are found in the above two verses:

1. *I can do nothing on My own initiative.*
2. *As I hear [GOD], I judge;*
3. *I "Do not judge according to appearance, but I judge with righteous judgment. [God's Judgment]"*
4. *because I do not seek My own will,*
5. *[I seek] the will of Him who sent Me."*

By embracing of these five truths, multiplied thousands of people all through church history have followed Jesus and His example. Their names have been added to that list of people who in ages past released the judgments and purposes of God on the earth. Today God is seeking people who have sold out to Jesus, with the understanding that, *"He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."* [2Co 5:15]

Now, at the end of the age, God has purposes for those who will set aside their own agendas and preconceived judgments and who will yield themselves to the judgments of God.

Their judgments **concerning others** are set aside to embrace His **righteous judgments.**

Their judgments **concerning themselves** yield to His **righteous judgments** concerning themselves.

Their judgments concerning the present and the future **yield to His judgments concerning the present and the future.**

Their world view, the pressure of society, and the creeds of the church
all yield to His “righteous judgments.”

Their lives are yielded to His life being lived in and through them.
*They no longer live for themselves, but
for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”*

This is the essential call of our day. Heed and LIVE IN THE
KINGDOM!!!

Have a blessed day.

George