

JUDGING

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me. Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?”

[Lk.12:13-14]

Five important lessons from the Master.

[1] **One needs to be appointed to function as a “judge”** Being a judge is a responsible calling and a position of authority which is established by someone of higher authority. It was a legitimate question when Jesus asked, *“Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?”* By implication Jesus was saying, “Without that appointment or calling, I have no authority to function as a judge.”

[2] **One does not appoint one’s self to roles of authority.** If no authority had appointed Him to be a judge, Jesus was not about to assume that role. Furthermore, Jesus was teaching them, by example, that while he had great authority in many realms, it should not be assumed that He was called to be a judge or an authority in every other area. Jesus repeatedly stated that He was not here to do His own will but the will of Him Who sent Him.

[3] **Without an appointment, there could be no enforcement of His rulings** [whatever they might be]. While one man might be willing to ask Jesus for a ruling, there is no reason to believe that his brother [or anyone else] would agree to that ruling whatever it was. Consequently, there could be no enforcing the ruling. The responsibility of enforcement would lie with the one who appointed the judge in the first place. Without that greater authority to enforce the judgment, there would be no point in making the ruling. It is also obvious that any ruling given would not be legitimate even if it were well received by all parties because it excludes the will, purpose, and authority of God.

[4] **All legitimate authority flows from the throne of God.** [Rom.13:1] It is essential, then, to function under His authority in all that we do and say if we desire to operate in any form of legitimate authority as a judge, boss, pastor, parent, or leader of others. In the end God, Who is the ultimate authority, will pass judgment and execute justice for us and all in our worlds.

[5] **A constantly yielded-to-God life was essential for Christ** and is essential for every one of His followers including each of us.

It is important to recognize that just living our lives requires multiple thousands of decisions [judgments]. Those judgments and decisions in many ways impact the lives of others – *often in unforeseen and unintended ways*. It is wisdom, then, to embrace the heart of how Jesus lived His life. He said that concerning His life, “...*“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]

Being yielded to the Father enables Jesus to release His Father’s life and purpose through us. We do not always hear or know just what the Father is saying or doing, but yieldedness ensures His present purpose being accomplished even without our full knowledge or understanding. A faithfully yielded heart releases an ever increasing amount of God’s purpose, power, and authority into our worlds.

*Father God, I yield my life
and all my decisions and future judgments to You. Amen.*