

May 10 - Chapter 3. - Sent:Who's to Judge? - p.57-78
Men Only

“The problem with most Christians today is that they would rather be on the judgment seat than on the witness stand.” Anonymous

Greeting: Introduce yourself to three different people with a fist bump

Community Building: Four Corners (**Fast Food** - 1-McDonalds, 2-Burger King, 3-KFC, 4-Pizza Hut
Coffee - 1-Dunkin Donuts, 2-Starbucks, 3-Marylou's, 4-Cumberland Farms **Meat** 1-Beef, 2-Chicken
 3-Pork, 4-Seafood **Gospel** - 1-Matthew, 2-Mark, 3-Luke, 4-John **Bible Character** - 1-Moses, 2-David,
 3-Abraham, 4-Paul

First Reading: The more I read and understand about how Jesus lived, the more I discover something in my own life that haunts me today. I call it the Great Disparity. This great, great disparity is the gap between who Jesus was in the flesh and who my life reveals Jesus to be....A vast majority of the not-yet Christian world sees Christians as judgmental, and according to national statistics, one of the defining impressions of Christians is that we are insensitive to others. Judgmental and insensitive—Jesus was neither.

John 3:17 says “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

1. What does it mean to be judgemental? What does it mean to be insensitive?
2. The Bible teaches husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, therefore should we be judgemental and insensitive with them?
3. How can we be judgemental and insensitive to our wives?

Second Reading: As Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God is at once Sender, Sent, and Sending. As I've said already, God in His very nature is a missionary God, and therefore His followers cannot participate in Christ without being on mission with Christ to the world.... It's time for the church to recapture its sense of sent-ness....Being sent biblically means, first and foremost, that the sent one knows the Sender intimately. Speaking of the Father, Jesus said, “I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”⁴ The church is sent in the same way God sent Jesus; therefore, all ministry and mission flow from our intimacy with God.

To be sent is to give glory and honor to the Sender, live in close relationship with the Sender, do the Sender's work, speak the Sender's words, follow the Sender's example, be accountable to the Sender, and exercise the delegated authority of the Sender.

When we recapture our sent-ness, we no longer see ourselves as doing things for God; we understand that Christian mission is doing things with God.

4. What does it mean to be sent?
5. How do we know the sender intimately?
6. How can being sent give glory to the sender?

Third Reading Our challenge as Christians on mission is to be truth tellers who confront evil without condemning people. It's a fine line to walk. And we walk that line by separating the two: evil and people. This separation isn't to imply that people aren't evil. We are. But the Christian's battle is against the powers and principalities of wickedness and spiritual darkness.¹² God is radically opposed to evil—more than we will ever comprehend—and yet He radically loves people.

7. Why is it such a challenge to be on mission confronting sin without condemning people?

Fourth Reading: ... You can always discern those Christians who understand the gospel best, because they act most humbly toward other people in their failures. We cross the line from truth telling to judging when we think less of people—or treat them poorly—because of how they behave or what they believe. Jesus treats us well and thinks well toward us even while we behave and believe badly. “God Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men,”

8. What is an indicator in your life that you value the Gospel in your own heart?

Fifth Reading: What is God already doing around me? Our God is a missionary God—Sender, Sent, and Sending. He is doing something around us—in our families, in our friends, in our coworkers, in our communities, in our country, and in the nations of the world. God is always at work, and this theology frames our worldviews. Practically, when we begin to read our Bibles missiologically—from Genesis to Revelation—we start to understand God's mission throughout all of history. When we begin to read life missiologically, we start to ask, “What is God doing?” And with this question we come to understand situations differently. Suddenly we see God moving within our lives and working all around us. Once we start to experience daily life this way, everything changes. Christianity gets exciting. Being on mission is the adventure of a lifetime, and it carries the impact of eternity.

10. What does it mean to read you bible missiologically?
11. What does it mean to live missiologically?
12. How can we apply this to marriage and parenting?

Share with your spouse or a close friend in the Lord: Think about how you could be less judgemental, and more sensitive with your spouse or friend, and let them know? Ask your wife or friend to help you be less judgmental and more sensitive when on Mission with Jesus. **Pray together.**

Next Week: May 17, p.79-102 Ch 4. Incarnation: The Sacred and the Soccer Games Women Only

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