


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Trust in God, Do Not Worry


²⁵ "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

Q1. **Do not worry about your life:** Does Jesus really want me to stop working? Am I to stop planning for tomorrow?


Stop working? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Stop planning? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q2. **Do not worry about your life:** “My company just laid-off a number of people, including me. I do not know how I’m going to afford food for my family. What am I to do?” What would you advise?

 “Jesus is not telling His followers to quit their jobs. He is not telling them to simply sit idly and wait for God to supernaturally provide. Nor is He suggesting it's wrong to earn money to provide for their families. He is not telling His followers they should not wisely save for future needs. In keeping with the rest of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is commanding His listeners to take control of what is going on in their minds and hearts. The word translated ‘worry’ or ‘be anxious’ here is *merimnate*. This can mean to care for or think about something. In this context, it means to obsess or agonize. Jesus' point here is not that we should be careless, but that we should not be fearful.

“In a meaningful sense, living in constant worry about money is a way of ‘serving’ money instead of serving God. Living in fear Jesus says, is not the point of real life. He will clarify this in the following verses.” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/6/Matthew-6-25.html>, accessed: 03/31/2026.]

 I am reminded of a story:

A man prayed to God every day to win the lottery. He prayed in the morning, at lunchtime, in the evening, and just before he went to sleep.

The man passed away and went to heaven. The man was rather upset with the Lord and sought him out.

The man said to the Lord, "I've been praying to win the lottery just once, for thirty-years! Every day after I

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woke up, ate my lunch, had my dinner in the evening, and just before I went to sleep. How come I never won??"
And the Lord said, "I WOULD HAVE HELPED, BUT YOU NEEDED TO BUY A TICKET!"

- ✎ This is NOT a promotion for the lottery! The lottery provides a hope, although that hope is tiny, miniscule, and you need a microscope to find it. A hope that is so remote – it's like searching for one grain of gold on a beach with miles of grains of sand underfoot.



Sand on a beach.

https://img.freepik.com/premium-photo/panoramic-view-extensive-beach-ebro-delta-isolated-white-background-space_660230-107209.jpg?ga=GAI.1.821966085.1773586045&semt=ais_incoming&w=740&q=80, accessed: 04/04/2026.

If you want to invest in a hope that is true, certain, and guaranteed, then believe in the Redeemer Christ Jesus! Have faith in the terrible price He paid for you, for me, on that cruel cross so many years ago. He lives for you and me. He loves you and me. He wants the absolute best for us, and from us, in this temporary world. Jesus's end-game isn't in this broken world; it is for all eternity in Paradise! His 'absolute best for us' is not as we define it; it does not mean riches; or handsome/beautiful, sculpted bodies; or comforts of food and fine houses.

His 'absolute best' refers to our spiritual well-being, the health of our soul, the strength of our faith in Him, the Christ-like example that we demonstrate to our family, friends, acquaintances, and to the world, despite any trials and tribulations that Satan may be allowed to inflict upon us. Through trials and tribulations, we learn to trust Him, to love Him. He has our backs, so to speak, and will not allow us to be tempted beyond that which we can endure (1 Corinthians 10:13). Some have said, "I wished that God did not have such faith in me! This life is, oh, so very hard!"

When faced with terrible trials, we must rely upon God for strength and guidance. Jesus has broad shoulders and we can turn to Him in rage, in weeping, in beseeching. Sometimes Jesus will permit our bodies to fail due to illness such as multiple sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), or dementia, or cancer. Even though we are sick, Jesus may use our examples of perseverance, kindness, and trust-in-Him as a way to minister to visitors and medical professionals who are caring for you. We will not get out of this world alive. Death will come to our bodies, but our souls will live-on, freed from the constraints of our earthly container.

The lottery story, however, underscores the responsibility that we have to Jesus. Jesus willingly took action; He ministered, He healed, He proclaimed, and then He allowed us humans to brutally abuse and kill His body. Jesus wants us to follow His example; we are to take action, to step-out, to speak-up – we are to take that first step in faith. He promises that He will be with us — with us. That does not mean that He will 'blaze the trail' ahead of us, or push us from behind, or replace us. He will be with us. Alongside of us. We are His hands, feet, and voice. The lottery story emphasizes that we must step-out in faith; we must take the first step! First, pray to the Lord. Second, repeat the first step. Third, seek others for help, advice, financial assistance, or medical diagnosis and care.

We pray, and He loves our faith; He loves to hear our voice. He may answer our prayers today, tomorrow

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. . . or never. Jesus knows what is absolutely in the best interests for our faith, not material things or comforts or riches.

Q3. (Personal not to be discussed in a group) ***Do not worry about your life:*** You may be deeply worried and have fervently prayed about some circumstance in your life or in the life of a loved one — and Jesus is silent. Have you examined the help that Jesus may have sent to you, already? Perhaps, Jesus is answering your circumstance, but you need to squelch your pride and ask someone to help.

Q4. ***Do not worry . . . what you will eat or drink:*** My country is so dry that all of our crops have dried-up, there is no food, and we are starving. A mother, who lives next door, is nursing her newborn baby, but her breast milk is barely flowing and her baby is slowly dying in her arms. What are we to do?

Q5. ***Do not worry . . . what you will eat or drink:*** Jesus said, “The poor you will always have with you.” Does Jesus want starving people to die?

Mark 14:7 [NIV-1984]

The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

Q6. ***Do not worry . . . what you will eat or drink:*** Does the “Christian” have a responsibility to the poor of other countries?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

James 2:14-19 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." ¹⁹ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my

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faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

Matthew 22:36-40 [NIV-1984]

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 25:31-46 [NIV-1984]

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'


⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Q7. Do not worry . . . what you will eat or drink: Who is your neighbor?

Q8. *Do not worry . . . what you will eat or drink*: How might Christ Jesus judge the "Christian" regarding the "Christian's" care of the poor in famine-ravaged countries, or the poor within their own nation?

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Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Q9. *The birds of the air . . . yet your heavenly Father feeds them*: Out in the wilderness, does our heavenly Father provide endless balls of suet or bird feeders that are always filled?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q10. The birds of the air . . . do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them: Do birds, or for that matter squirrels, have to work for their food, or is food given to them?

Work? Given? (Why did you circle that answer?)


Ephesians 1:5 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Q11. The birds of the air . . . do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you . . . more valuable: We, who believe, are adopted by the Father. As adopted sons and daughters, are we not “more valuable” than birds and animals?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)


Q12. The birds of the air . . . do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you . . . more valuable: What lesson does Jesus want us to remember from this teaching?

 “Careful reading of this passage gives important context. Jesus has been careful to point out that God's plans, and God's will, are not always identical to our preferences ([Matthew 5:3–12](#)). God will provide all that we ‘need’ in order to obey His will. At times that might not include what we sometimes think of as ‘needs’. The fact that life — true life ([John 10:10](#); [14:6](#)) — is more than these earthly things is a crucial part of understanding this

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analogy.” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/6/Matthew-6-26.html>, accessed: 04/05/2026.]

²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life ?


 The MSG version translates verse 27 in this way: “Has anyone . . . gotten taller by so much as an inch [MSG]”.

Q13. *Who of you by worrying:* What does “worry” give us?

1 Peter 5:7 [NIV-1984]

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

Q14. *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor:* Who was “Solomon”?

2 Samuel 12:24-25 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

²⁴ Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife. He slept with her and had intimate relations with her. She became pregnant again and had another son. David named the boy Solomon. The Lord loved Solomon. ²⁵ The Lord sent word through Nathan the prophet to name the baby Jedidiah [“loved by the Lord”]. This was because the Lord loved the child.

Acts 7:47 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

[Solomon’s father King David planned to build the Lord’s Temple, but God judged David’s sins, and gave the construction privilege to Solomon.]

But Solomon was the one who built the Temple.

2 Chronicles 1:1, 7, 10–12 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

¹ Now Solomon the son of David established himself securely over his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and exalted him greatly. . . .

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⁷ In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask what I shall give you.” . . .


¹⁰ Now give me wisdom and knowledge, so that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours?”

¹¹ Then God said to Solomon, “Because this was in your heart, and you did not ask for riches, wealth, or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor did you even ask for long life, but you asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge so that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king, ¹² wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. I will also give you riches, wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed, nor will those who will come after you.”

2 Chronicles 9:3-4 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

³ The queen of Sheba saw that Solomon was very wise. She also saw the palace he had built.

⁴ She saw the food on his table and his many officers. She saw the palace servants and their good clothes. She saw the servants who served Solomon his wine. And she saw their good clothes. She saw the burnt offerings he made in the Temple of the Lord. All these things amazed her.

 King Solomon is generally attributed with writing the Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon (Song of Songs).

Q15. **Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these:**


The phrase “dressed like one of these”: to what is Jesus referring? (Hint: usually associated with Easter)

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Q16. **Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these:**

The phrase “*dressed like one of these*”: What color is this to which Jesus is referring?


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 **Even Solomon in all his splendor:** “The common dress of Eastern kings was purple, but they sometimes wore white robes. See [Esther 8:15](#); [Daniel 7:9](#). It is to this that Christ refers. Solomon, [Jesus said,] the richest and most magnificent king of Israel, was not clothed in a robe of ‘so pure a white’ as the lily that grows wild in the field.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/6-29.htm>, accessed: 04/06/2026.]

³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire [or oven (ESV)], will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Q17. **The grass of the field:** Since trees (i.e., firewood) were sparse in this land, what might the typical family use to heat an oven for baking bread?


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 Did you notice the progression? In verse 25, Jesus expresses God’s care for you and me (humanity). Then, in verse 26 He emphasizes God’s care for “birds of the sky”. He then switches to God’s care for the “lilies of

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the field” in verse 28. Finally, in verse 30 Jesus mentions God’s care for the “grass of the field”.

Jesus’s point is that as God cares for the miniscule — even the “grass of the field” — how much more does He care for you and me! We were made in His image ([Genesis 1:26](#)). Scripture promises that we are adopted sons and daughters ([Ephesians 1:5](#)) of the Lord God Almighty, and that means Christ Jesus is our brother!

 “The Jewish oven was a vessel narrower at the top than at the bottom, made of baked clay. Sometimes the fuel was placed within, and the cakes laid against the sides. Sometimes the oven was heated by a fire kindled beneath or around it. Eastern travellers state that wood being rare in most parts of the East, grass, twigs, and straw are commonly used for fuel.” [©1882 and later, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges by Cambridge University Press. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/10-3.htm>, accessed: 04/06/2026.]


Q18. **You, O you of little faith:** What is Jesus emphasizing in this phrase? (If you said ‘faith’, then – thinking back to previous verses in this chapter – what does an increase in faith provide?)

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Q19. **So do not worry:** Worrying, anxiety seems to be part of human life. How are we to ‘take captive’ worry? (If your answer is ‘prayer’, then what else must be done?)

 “If worry was ever a good option, it would be when the circumstances of our lives are at their worst. Isn't it time to start worrying if you don't know where your next meal or clothing is coming from? If not then, when?”

“That's part of Jesus' point in this passage. If that is not a good time to be fearful ([Matthew 6:25](#)), it means there is never a good time to be fearful. For the people who call God Father, worry is never the appropriate response to life. Human nature tempts us to fear, and to have anxiety, but it's not how God wants us to feel. As unrealistic as that sounds to many of us, that's the level of confidence He wants His disciples and listeners to have in their Father in heaven. It's a matter of trusting both God's ability and His willingness to provide for us.”

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Q20. ***Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness:*** How can we comply with this command?

³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Q21. ***Do not worry about tomorrow:*** If someone struggles with addiction and they want to stay sober, do they worry about tomorrow's temptations? Or are they cautious about what might tempt them today – in the next hour?


Tomorrow? Today? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q22. ***Do not worry about tomorrow:*** We have discussed “worry” in earlier questions: How does “worry” help us?


Q23. ***Do not worry about tomorrow:*** How might we, who believe, learn to trust in the Lord and then grow that trust?

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

God's Guide for Our Behavior

 Chapter 7 is the final chapter of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount.

^{7:1} "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.

Q24. If we assume that the Book of Matthew is written in a somewhat chronological order, then

- ① At this time in Jesus's ministry do we, students of the Bible, know of any Christians?
- ② Has the Church of Christ Jesus been established?

① Any known Christians? Yes? No? (If yes, who?)

② Is the Church established? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Acts 11:26^b [NIV-1984]

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.


Matthew 16:18 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Q25. ① Is it important to identify the audience members listening to Jesus as either Believers (Christ-followers) or nonbelievers? ② Why is the distinction important?

① Are the audience members: Believers? Or nonbelievers? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Why is the distinction important?

 It is important to distinguish between Believers and nonbelievers to avoid misunderstanding, and potential accusations that the Bible is 'full of contradictions'. In the New Testament following the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. The Book of Acts includes descriptions of the founding and nurturing of Christian churches in the region around the greater eastern Mediterranean Sea.

As part of the nurturing process of the Corinthian church, which he founded, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter in which he corrected erroneous behavior and teachings. Included in his letter is this admonition found in 1 Corinthians 5:12-13^a (↓)

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1 Corinthians 5:12-13^a [NIV-1984]

¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ^{13^a} God will judge those outside.

Q26. What does “judge” mean in the Bible?

Matthew 18:15-17 [NIV-1984]

¹⁵ "If your brother [a brother or sister in-Christ] sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."



Our English language treats the words judgment and discernment as synonyms — words that mean essentially the same thing. This equivocation is harmful to correct understanding. As we just read, Christ Jesus taught "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. (Matthew 7:1).

As Scripture teaches us, “Flee from sexual immorality” (1st Corinthians 6:18a). Discernment begins with us asking a question of ourselves, “What is sexual immorality?” The next question in our discernment asks, “Is this behavior before me considered sexual immorality?” If we answer the second question with “Yes!”, then we are to “Flee!” Discernment in this context is the act of determining if some potential action or words are immoral, unethical, or not honoring to God. Then, we have a choice to make: to do, or not to do; to say, or not to say; to flee, or to stay.

Judgment on the other hand is discernment plus a penalty/punishment/consequence. Parents may oft-times discern an action committed by their child that is harmful or rude or disrespectful. Depending upon the severity of the child’s action, the parent may become a judge, in that the parent discerns the child’s disobedient action and then judges that a consequence must be imposed to discourage — hopefully — future actions of similar disobedience.

We, who believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, are to discern actions or words that will dishonor God. If we commit the action or speak the word, then we sin — we have dishonored God. (Inaction or silence can also dishonor God; for example, a nonbelieving friend utters the Name of Christ Jesus in vain and I fail to speak-up or I fail to “flee”; my silence implies approval.)

The Apostle Paul excoriated the Corinthian Church (1st Corinthians 5) for accepting a “sexual immorality . . . that does not occur even among pagans”. Paul understood Jesus’ teaching recorded in Matthew 18:15-17 (↑) that we, who believe, are to hold fellow-Believers accountable to live a life that reflects Christ Jesus. Jesus prescribes a procedure to correct egregious sinful behavior or blasphemous teachings, with the church ultimately judging and imposing a punishment — up to and including excommunication from the Church body.

The Apostle Paul also writes “What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.” (1st Corinthians 5:12-13a). Clearly, we are instructed to hold fellow church-members accountable within the guidelines Jesus provided in Matthew 18:15-17 (↑). We are not God! God will judge those outside the church. While God’s judgment may include an expedited judgment in this life from a God-provided governmental judicial court system, we all will face ultimate judgment when we stand before the Judge in the Great White Throne Judgement ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

Does that mean that, if my nonbelieving friend is a shoplifter, I am to stay by his/her side as he (or she) steals? By no means! What about my nonbelieving friend who tells an outright lie? Or worse yet, what about a Believer who tells an outright lie? Ouch. If a person lies in front of others, we must confront the lie; otherwise, our silence implies agreement with the liar. If a person lies in a private conversation with you (or me), then we must confront the lie, and, if there is no repentance, then we must carefully discern any harm that may occur from the lie; and worst case – we flee. Does this mean that we shun the person? Perhaps, yes. If the reputation

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of the church might be affected by the perceptions of our association to the liar, then we must limit our associations. Does that mean that our ministries stop? No. It means that we must carefully navigate the perceptions we project through our associations. If we hear that the Believer continues to repeat the lie, then we should follow Jesus's guidance of Matthew 18:15-17.

Above all, we are to discern! And, if we discern sinful behavior, we are to "Flee!" Quietly fleeing the situation protects the Believer from the temptation and the church-body from recrimination by association. We, who believe, must protect ourselves, our morals, our ethics, our integrity, and ultimately the character of Christ Jesus from those events, actions, or words that might dishonor our Savior. We are not bringing judgment against the nonbeliever; we are simply removing ourselves from the temptation to dishonor the Lord Christ Jesus.

Discernment = determine right from wrong.

Judgment = discernment, plus a penalty, a consequence, against the person who acted wrongly.

Or judgment = discernment + penalty (or consequence, punishment)

Frankly, on a personal note, this commentator has struggled greatly with discernment versus judgment. I have a dear friend, a professed "Christian" who revealed a deep-seated – in discernment I'm going to call it hatred – toward certain people-groups. He has a very narrow view of "neighbor" and does not see his hypocrisy as revealed in [Matthew 25:31-46](#), especially verses [40](#) and [45](#). He and I attend different churches, so I cannot ask for church discipline. The only recourse, I believe available to me, is to "Flee!". The consequence of my judgment of a so-called member of the Church is this: I am shunning my friend.

It is very sad when personal views of a professed "Christian" collide with the reality of Scripture, and that "Christian" remains oblivious to the teachings of Christ Jesus. I am reminded that God said, "[Let Us make mankind in Our image](#)", and then that of the teachings from Jesus's half-brother James in James 3 (↓).

James 3:5^b-9 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]


^{5b} A big forest fire can be started with only a little flame. ⁶ And the tongue is like a fire. It is a whole world of evil among the parts of our bodies. The tongue spreads its evil through the whole body. It starts a fire that influences all of life. The tongue gets this fire from hell. ⁷ People can tame every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and fish, and they have tamed them. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue. It is wild and evil. It is full of poison that can kill. ⁹ We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people. And God made [people] like himself.

Q27. (Verse 2) ***For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged:*** Why is Jesus emphasizing "judgment" over-and-over?

Q28. (Verse 2) ***With the measure you use, it will be measured to you:*** How do you explain this warning?

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

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? ⁴How 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?

Q29. Is it easy for us to be critical of another?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q30. Is it easier for us to see an issue in someone else versus self-examination of ourselves?

Yes? No? (Thoughts?)

Q31. **Speck of sawdust** versus **plank**: What does Jesus mean with this comparison?

Q32. Are there differences between human judgment versus God's? (Hint: Discern truth? Discern motives? Discern extenuating circumstances? Etc.)

Yes? No? (Thoughts? Examples?)

⁵You 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.

Q33. **First take the plank out of your own eye**: If I recognize the "plank [in my] own eye", how do I remove it from my eye?

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Q34. *Will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye:* If I recognize the “plank [in my] own eye”, how do I remove it?

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 then turn and tear you to pieces.

Q35. *Do not give dogs what is sacred . . . your pearls to pigs:* What might be defined as “sacred” or “pearls”?

Q36. *Do not give dogs what is sacred:* This seems really harsh. I love my ‘furry kids’ (dogs or cats). Why would Jesus provide this warning? (Hint: In the Creation are dogs/cats equivalent to humans?)

Genesis 1:23-26^a [NIV-1984]

²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. ²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

^{26a} Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness . . .”

Q37. *Dogs . . . pigs:* Can animals distinguish between the “sacred . . . [or] pearls”)?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q38. *Dogs . . . pigs . . . turn and tear you to pieces:* Are there instances of dogs or pigs (boars or sows) turning on their owners or their children?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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