



“Do Not Judge, For Realsies!”

Isaiah 5:20-21

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes!”

Luke 6:37-38

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

JUDGMENT:

Definition A (*“to discern, separate,
distinguish between”*)

OR

Definition B (*“to bring to trial, pass
judgment, condemn”*)?

Luke 6:37-38

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“You cannot love and judge at the same time. It’s impossible to ascribe unsurpassable worth to others when you are using others to ascribe worth to yourself.”

John 5:22-23

“For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.”

John 3:17-18

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

John 5:24-25

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”

“Mercy triumphs over justice.”
(James 2:13)

“Whoever says he abides in Jesus ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” (1 John 2:6)

[THE EARLIEST MANUSCRIPTS
DO NOT INCLUDE 7:53–8:11.]¹

The Woman Caught in Adultery

8⁵³ [[They went each to his own house,¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adul-

[[...]]

you?”¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”]]

¹ Some manuscripts do not include 7:53–8:11; others add the passage here or after 7:36 or after 21:25 or after Luke 21:38, with variations in the text

John 7:53 - 8:3

53 They went each to his own house, 1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst.

John 8:4-6

4 They said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" 6 This they said to test him that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

John 8:7-9

7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

John 8:10-11

10 Jesus stood up and said to her,
“Woman, where are they? Has no one
condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one,
Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I
condemn you; go, and from now on sin no
more.”



“He who had come as a redeemer, not as a hanging judge—he who had come to redeem what was lost—turned away from them as though unwilling to look at them. This turning away from them is not empty of meaning. Something is to be understood by this turning away.”

“It is as though he were saying, ‘You bring me this sinner, you who are sinners yourselves. If you think I ought to condemn sins, I shall begin with you.’” (Augustine of Hippo)



“This is the voice of justice. Let the sinner be punished, but not by sinners. Let the law be carried out, but not by transgressors of the law.”

(Augustine of Hippo)



“The two were left alone, the pitiful and the one who was Pity himself... They left the woman with her great sin in the keeping of him who was without sin.”

“And because she had heard, ‘He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone at her,’ she most likely expected to be punished by one in whom no sin could be found. But he, who had repelled her adversaries with the voice of justice, lifted on her the eyes of mercy.” (Augustine of Hippo)



The major note of this passage is
mercy.

If we are going to walk as Jesus
walked, extending mercy should be
the primary item on our agenda.

Jesus, the only one qualified and
righteous enough to judge, chooses
here to not.

If Jesus refused to do so, how can
we?

Jesus does not condemn us, but he
does not leave us in our mess.

He calls us to repentance and gives
us the ability to live in the power and
purity of God's Spirit.

Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-10

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us... Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”