



Study of: James

THEME: CHRIST INSIDE AND OUT

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Class 8 “Why ‘don’t judge me’ is judgment itself” Overview:

This lesson will show how the enemy uses a misapplied scripture to create a shield of passivity. By making believers feel guilty for "judging," the enemy successfully silences the church, allowing wrongdoing to grow completely unchecked in the dark.

Class Objectives:

1. What does it mean to “speak evil” of another?
2. What is the biblical definition of judging?
3. What is the true impact of the misunderstanding of judging?

Defining Speaking Evil

James 4:11-12 “*I Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one [e]Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who[f] are you to judge [g]another?*”

- **“Speak evil”** - GK - “*katalaleō*”[ka-tah-lah-lay-oh] - to slander, to speak against, to accuse
 - James is still addressing those who have made themselves teachers and are continuing his warning about the use of the tongue
 - Important context: Teachers were slandering each other and causing tremendous problems in the church.
 - The word “slander” includes any false accusations to damage reputations - false accusations
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- **“Malign”** - “to speak harmful, often untrue things about someone or to criticize them unfairly. It involves damaging someone's reputation through malicious intent, misrepresentation, or spite”
- **“Truthfulness and motives are key”** - If the information is true, one can speak maliciously acrimoniously, but they’re not speaking evil

Defining Judging

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- **“Judge - “Krino”[kree-no]-**
 1. To make a legal decision by a standard[the word of God][relativism]
 2. To hold a view or an opinion[application of wisdom][modernism]
 3. To condemn or to pass final judgment[consequences for behavior][humanism]
- **Matthew 7:1-2** “Judge[a] not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what [b]judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”
- **Luke 17:3-5** “*3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins [a]against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns [b]to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.*”
- **“judging”** - occurs when we LOCK a person in the offense in our hearts/opinions and we leave no room for the possibility of changed behavior
- When we judge others, we take the place of the “lawgiver” - that’s NOT our lane

The Misunderstanding:

- **Silence Over Truth** - We become quiet supporters instead of being vocal proponents of truth
 - James 4:11 warns against speaking evil against a brother, but scripture never commands us to be silent about truth.
 - **Ephesians 4:15** “*15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*”
- **Godly Wisdom Seems Foreign** - Worldly wisdom seems more “reasonable” and less controversial
 - **Proverbs 1:7** “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”
- **The Church Loses Its Voice** - God called His church to be His WITNESS in the earth
 - **Matthew 5:13** “*13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”*”

Q. What is the true impact of the misunderstanding of judging?