

## ***Week of June 17, 2007***

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### **Monday**

1John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Christian discernment is commended everywhere in scripture and nowhere discouraged. Do not mistake God's call for a 'nonjudgmental attitude' as a call for Christian naiveté. "Wise as serpents and as harmless as doves" was Jesus way of speaking of the balance between proper judgment and false condemnation of others. Pray for God to give you discernment in all things. Pray too for God to give you compassion and grace.

### **Tuesday**

James 2:4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

Even believers can fall to the sin of favoritism, making unholy distinctions. When we elevate others merely because of their social or financial status, when we degrade others for the same reason, we sin. Jesus elevated the downtrodden and fixed the broken hearted and restored the sinner. We are to be no less redemptive in our world. Ask God to reveal the subtle sin of "distinctions" in your heart. Ask Him to give you eyes to see the value and worth of each person.

### **Wednesday**

Prov. 11:13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

A judgmental spirit and a wagging tongue combine to do greater damage to the Kingdom of God than most other enemies. Twins from hell, these two destroy homes, churches, and communities. James said, "And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell." Beg God to save you from the wagging tongue — *your own* and others.

### **Thursday**

Matt. 7:2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

"Really? Is this true?" Yes! Yes! God measures His attitude toward you by your attitude toward others. Would you have others be more understanding? Be more understanding toward others. Would you have others be more encouraging? Practice encouragement. Would you have others be more compassionate? Be more compassionate. Have you received God's grace? Be gracious to others in the Lord. In the same way, the negative aspects you most readily see in others, is often a reflection of those traits in you. Examine yourself before you judge.

### **Friday**

Matt. 7:5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

The concern of the genuine Christian must always be focused upon his/her own growth in the Lord. We condemn others in hopes of justifying ourselves. God would have us focus upon the depth of our own sin and failure. The realization that "I" put Jesus upon the cross brings a genuine humility that is unable to condemn another as unfit for God's love. The saved sinner understands that "if God can love *me*, He can love anybody. "