

THE TRAP

Pastor Jim Laero 6/10/12

We all know that judging others is not healthy to us.

Read:

Matthew 7:1-2 (AMP)

1 Do not judge and criticize and condemn others, so that you may not be judged and criticized and condemned yourselves. 2 For just as you judge and criticize and condemn others, you will be judged and criticized and condemned, and in accordance with the measure you [use to] deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you.

BUT HOW TO WE GET TO THE POINT THAT WE JUDGE OTHERS???? IT'S A TRAP !!!**1. apathy leads to self-pity**

apathy

1. absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement.
2. lack of interest in or concern for things that others (Christians & God) find moving or exciting.

2. self-pity leads to resentment

self-pity

pity for oneself, especially a self-indulgent attitude concerning one's own difficulties, hardships, etc.:

3. resentment leads to criticism

resentment

the feeling of displeasure or indignation at some act, remark, person, etc., that caused injury or insult.

4. criticism leads to gossip

criticism

the act of making opinion as to the merits of anything.

5. gossip leads to judgment

gossip

idle talk or rumor, about the personal or private affairs of others.

6. judgment(a) leads to you being judged(b) by God.

a. judgment

condemnation or the decision (whether severe or mild) which one passes on the faults of others

b. judged

- 1) to separate, put asunder, to pick out, select, choose (God will separate you as you separate others)
- 2) to approve, esteem, to prefer (God will approve you as you approve others)
- 3) to be of opinion, deem, think, to be of opinion (God will have an opinion about you as you do of others)

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out again to you.

7. Judged by God leads to being opposed by God

James 4:6 (NLT)

“God opposes the proud but favors the humble.”

8. Opposed by God leads to endless failure! TRAPPED!

Numbers 14:34 (NLT)

34 “‘Because your men explored the land for forty days, you must wander in the wilderness for forty years—a year for each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy.’”

Jonah Runs from the Lord

Jonah 1 (NLT)

1 The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.” **APATHY** 3 But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the Lord by sailing to Tarshish.

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

Jonah 3 (NLT)

1 Then the Lord spoke to Jonah a second time: 2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.” 3 This time Jonah obeyed the Lord’s command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all.[a] 4 On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: “Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” 5 The people of Nineveh believed God’s message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow. 6 When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. 7 Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: “No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. 8 People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. 9 Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.” 10 When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah’s Anger at the Lord’s Mercy

Jonah 4 (NLT)

1 This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. 2 So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. 3 Just kill me now, Lord! I’d rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.” 4 The Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry about this?” 5 Then Jonah went out to the east side of the city and made a shelter to sit under as he waited to see what would happen to the city. 6 And the Lord God arranged for a leafy plant to grow there, and soon it spread its broad leaves over Jonah’s head, shading him from the sun. This eased his discomfort, and Jonah was very grateful for the plant. 7 But God also arranged for a worm! The next morning at dawn the worm ate through the stem of the plant so that it withered away. 8 And as the sun grew hot, God arranged for a scorching east wind to blow on Jonah. The sun

beat down on his head until he grew faint and wished to die. “Death is certainly better than living like this!” he exclaimed. 9 Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry because the plant died?” “Yes,” Jonah retorted, “even angry enough to die!” 10 Then the Lord said, “You feel sorry about the plant, though you did nothing to put it there. It came quickly and died quickly. 11 But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness,[a] not to mention all the animals. Shouldn’t I feel sorry for such a great city?”