



James Chapter 3 and 4 The Tongue of Fire!

As we move into the third chapter of the book of James we find the brother of our Messiah giving us some instruction concerning a monumentally important tool that we all use to help us spread the Gospel message of our Messiah. But the ironic thing about this one God given tool... is that this the very same God given tool that we often use to destroy the Gospel message of our Messiah.

This one God given tool that our Father has given us is the hardest tool to control... it's the one God given tool that can often times shine the most light... the most comfort... and the most hope... and yet at the same time it's the one God given tool that can destroy all the good that we've ever done with in seconds.

This one God given tool blesses... and it curses... it uplifts... and it tears down... it sheds light... and it casts darkness... it builds up... and it destroys... it heals... and it wounds... it brings joy... and it brings dispare. And this one God given tool is a tool that we will all be judged by. It's the one God given tool that has more power than we will probably ever realize... and yet it is one of the smallest members of the body.

Now some of you may be wondering what this one God given tool is that we've all been given... but for those of you who have already read the third chapter of the book of James... you already know what this one God given tool is... it is indeed... the human tongue.

I can't tell you how many times I've been lifted up by the words of someone in my life who I truly loved... and by the same token... I can't tell you how many times I have been torn down and utterly destroyed by the words of someone in my life who I truly loved. Lets turn to Proverbs 17:27-28:

Pro 17:27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

Pro 17:28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

How important is that scripture to ponder. Even a fool can seem wise if he remains silent. Sometimes remaining silent is a good option for all of us. From time to time we might want to

utilize that option every now and then. Have you ever noticed someone who just can't seem to remain silent? Have you ever met someone who always has an opinion, always gossiping about someone else... always has to be in the know... (or at least think that they're in the know)?

Some of us have a hard time remaining silent... but remain silent we should... at least until we've heard the whole matter. How often have we jumped the gun and offered up our opinion before hearing both sides of a story? Have you ever done that? I know I have. Have you ever spoken before think through what you wanted to say? I think it's safe to say that all of us have at one time or another spoken out of turn... or spoken with out thinking things through... and then afterwards looked back and said to ourselves... "I shouldn't have said that... oh I wish I had not of said that". But sometimes our words escape our lips before being checked by our brains don't they?

It happens to all of us at one point in time or another, and so I hope that you are not someone who thinks that these things only happen to you... because you can trust me when I tell you that these kinds of mistakes are not exclusive to you personally. It happens to all of us... and because it does happen to all of us from time to time... what we're about to read in James chapter 3 might be a little uncomfortable for us to hear... but at the same time... what we're about to read in James chapter 3 may help us to control our tongues more effectively.

We're going to get into some scripture here today that some of us might see as downright frightening. But at the same time these scriptures should be read and understood by every Christian who after the truth and working towards walking as our Messiah walked. Speaking of our Messiah... Lets turn to the red letter words of our Messiah... and lets hear what he has to say about the dangers of the human tongue. Matthew 12:36-37:

Mat 12:36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

Mat 12:37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Did you just hear that? Do you have any idea how many careless words that we've spoken throughout our lifetime? Think about this for just moment. How many times have we jumped the gun and spoken out of jealousy... or anger... or even self righteousness? How many times have we cursed someone for cutting us off on the freeway, or for cutting in line, or for beating us to a parking spot?

People will give an account for every careless word that they speak. By our words we will be justified... and by our words we will be condemned. Do you suppose that we may want to train ourselves to remain silent more often? Do you suppose that sometimes we might want to slow down and take the time to think... before we speak? Do you suppose that we ought to slow down... and consider the ramifications of what we're about to say before we say it? Proverbs

15:4 tells us that “*A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*”. Lets turn to Proverbs 18:1-8:

Pro 18:1 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

Pro 18:2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Pro 18:3 When wickedness comes, contempt comes also, and with dishonor comes disgrace.

Pro 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

Pro 18:5 It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice.

Pro 18:6 A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.

Pro 18:7 A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

Pro 18:8 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

How many times even in a church have we heard the words of a gossipier whispering into the ears of those who want to be... in the know?

The word of our Father in Heaven is spoken by the tongue of our Father in Heaven. According to David in Psalms 119, his word is pure, it's perfect, honorable, just, and righteous. His word is a light that cuts through the darkness of the human soul that was born into the sin of the world. His word transforms, re-configures, restores, and re-creates the human soul and makes it a new lump of clay to be formed by the hands of the potter. Words my friends... mean things. Words represent not only idea's and inspiration, and praise... but they also represent things like ignorance... self righteousness... covetousness... and depravity. Our words will never shine like the words of our Father unless the words we choose to use... are his words.

Lets turn to the third chapter of the book of James and lets see what James has to say about the God given tool called the human tongue. James 3:

Jas 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

Jas 3:3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

Jas 3:4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

Jas 3:5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by

hell.

Jas 3:7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

Jas 3:8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Jas 3:9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Jas 3:10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Jas 3:11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?

Jas 3:12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Jas 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

Jas 3:14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

Jas 3:15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

Jas 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Jas 3:18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

It's interesting that James uses the analogy of a bit in the mouth of a horse... and how that bit in the horses mouth is used to guide the horses whole body. Proverbs 21:23 says “*Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.*”. Lets turn to Psalms 52:2-5:

Psa 52:2 Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

Psa 52:3 You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. Selah.

Psa 52:4 You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.

Psa 52:5 But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah.

Once again we see the power that the tongue has... and it's ability to destroy all the good that we may have done in the past if we let it. Like a simple match... the tongue has the ability to burn down miles of forest in an instant.

In verse four of James chapter 3 James likens the tongue to the rudder of a ship, and he makes mention of how the largest of ships... even today's modern day ocean liners and battle ships are guided by a rudder... one of the smallest components of a ship. And that little rudder steers and guides the whole ship where it will go.

What James is trying to get us to remember is that the human tongue speaks from the heart of person... and what the human tongue speaks... the body does. The human tongue will indeed steer us in the direction that we will go... whether towards the light and towards righteousness, and holiness, or whether towards darkness and evil and everlasting contempt.

Think about it... if we speak in anger... our body follows suit by aggressively closing the gap between us and our adversary, and our fingers begin to point at them, and our voice raises in volume and what comes next?... fists begin to fly, and soon both tongue and body are enraged with hate and anger because of the words that have been carelessly tossed between us... and before you know it... someone is laying on the ground hurt... sometimes fatally. And for what? Because someone got cut off on the freeway, or because someone looked at someone else's spouse, or because someone cut in line? People have died... for less... and why?... Because we allow our tongue to precede our thinking. Anger wells up within us and our tongue vomits out the first thing that crosses our minds and before you know it we're all mixed up in a confrontation that we don't want... and why?... Because we've allowed our tongue to start a fire that we can't put out. What did we just read in Proverbs 18:6 and 7?... *"A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul."*

Have you ever heard the old saying "Loose lips sink ships"? I would submit to you my friends that this kind of "Loose lipped" behavior is built into many soap Operas and movies, and even the modern day video games that our entertainment industry splashes across the big screen. Hollywood has literally pre-programmed us to accept what has always been known as evil in the past... and it has taken its toll on our attitudes towards each other and our social rolls with in society today. Many of the things that our tongues say on television today were deemed foul language and banned from our televisions just 20 years ago. But today our tongues can say much more than they could say back then... and hardly any of it could be deemed as holy or righteous by our Father's standards... but then again... we've conveniently pushed our Father in Heaven out of our Schools and out of our halls of justice, and out of our public squares and even out of our churches for that matter. And so... this is the Babylonian world that we find ourselves in. And our children sadly enough are left to navigate through the swamp of this loose lipped society, and they're now forced to choose between what we teach them from the scriptures... and what our modern day Babylonian world teaches them from our adversary. Lets jump ahead a little bit to James 4:1-3:

Jas 4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Jas 4:2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Many of the riots that we watch on television today stem from the passions that war within us.

And some of those passions don't even belong within us. But we have allowed the Babylonian world that we live in.. to fool us into thinking that it's all about us... it's all about our social background or our political standing, or our color or our creed, or whether we are a Republican or whether we're a Democrat, or whether our skin is black, or white, or whether we drive a Ford or a Chevy. And from those passions that reside within our hearts... we allow division to overcome us and the light of our hearts grows dark, and out of the abundance of our hearts the tongue speaks.

The passions with in us that James speaks of are indeed at war within us, and these passions can range from political passions to cultural passions, to sexual passions, and even to doctrinal passions. Today's modern day Christianity has many passions at war with in itself. The passions of today's modern day Scribes and Pharisees have been misplaced, and manipulated by the teachings, and the doctrines and the theologies, and the philosophies of men... and the passion for the love of our Father in Heaven and his only begotten Son have been tossed aside for the passion and the love of today's so called “early church fathers” and their doctrines, theologies and philosophies. Today's modern day version of Christianity wars against itself because just as James tells us... it's passions are at war with in themselves.

This next 7th Day Sabbath we'll be talking about the Anti Semitism of Modern Day Christianity... and the hatred and utter contempt.. that modern day Christianity has had for the Jew since the first century when we replaced the truth of scripture with the doctrines of what modern day Christianity calls it's “Early Church fathers”... and we'll be talking about the very fact that the reason that modern day Christianity makes void the word of God in order to hold onto it's own traditions... is because of the anti semitism of it's so called “Early Church fathers” who have all but created the doctrines and theologies that modern day Christianity has built it's house upon. And we'll be talking about the tongue of people like Stalin and Hitler, and yes... even the Pope... especially... the Pope... who bowed her knee to the wickedness of Hitler and his henchmen in front of both God and man.

The Holocaust my friends was brought about by the human tongue. Once again what does James tell us in James 3:5-6?:

Jas 3:5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

So how then is it that we can control the human tongue? If we want to control the human tongue we must first control the human heart... because it is out of the abundance of the heart... the tongue speaks. If our heart is not right... neither will our tongues be right. The human tongue is an exact mirror of the human heart. Now some might say “well some people hide what's in their

heart and some people lie about what's in their heart” but I would submit to you my friends that the deceitful words that a mans tongue speaks... must first come from a deceitful heart that plans and plots deceitful things. Either way... what's in a mans heart... escapes from a mans tongue. If his heart is full of lies then the tongue will speak lies. If a mans heart is full of righteousness... and holiness then a mans tongue will speak righteousness, and holiness. But it starts with a change of the heart. And before you say that you don't believe that... let me disclose where I got that from because these words are not my words... they are our Messiah's words that he spoke in Matthew 15:17-20:

Mat 15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?

Mat 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Mat 15:19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Mat 15:20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

Once again my friends... what comes out of the mouth... proceeds from the heart... and this is what defiles a person. The human tongue can not be bridled with out first bridling the human heart. If we want to control our tongue.. it starts with controlling whats in our heart... and just what is it that is supposed to be in our hearts? Hebrews 10:16-17:

Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

Heb 10:17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

If we have our Fathers laws written on our hearts... then our tongues will produce the evidence of what our Father has written on our hearts. If we deny his laws, and we have no room for his laws because we have filled our hearts and our minds with worldly things... or the teachings of what Christianity today calls it's “Early Church fathers”....then once again... from the abundance of the heart... the tongue speaks. And you will know them by their fruits.

I tell you the truth my friends..., on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by our words we will be justified, and by our words we will be condemned."... says... our Messiah.

So with that all being said I hope that we can come away from James chapter 3 with the understanding of how dangerous the human tongue can be... and especially if it's fullled by a darkened hart that does not know who it's creator is... and if we remember nothing else from James chapter 3 I hope that we will all remember that it is from the abundance of the heart... that the tongue speaks... if you have darkness in... we're going to get darkness out... and if we

have the light shining with in us... we're going to shine that light outwardly as well.

Lets continue on and lets read James chapter 4:

Jas 4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Jas 4:2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Jas 4:5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?

Jas 4:6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jas 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Jas 4:9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Jas 4:11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Jas 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Jas 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—

Jas 4:14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Jas 4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

Jas 4:16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Jas 4:17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Now we've already talked about James one through four and that through the passions of the heart the tongue speaks... and what happens when our hearts are full of rage and wickedness...but what about what we see in James 4:4?

Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

I want us to think about this passage my friends... “whoever wishes to be a friend of the world...

makes himself an enemy of God.” We ought to be asking ourselves... what does the world say that Christianity is? The world says that Catholicism... is Christianity does it not? The world believes that Catholicism and her popery are Christianity does it not? Where do all the Kings, and Queens, and Presidents, and the nations leaders go to visit? Is it not to the Vatican... and to see the Pope of Rome who claims to be the Messiah on earth?... and do they not bow to him and many of them even kiss his golden pagan ring?

What rule of law do today's Protestant churches follow? Do they not follow the 1st day of the week Sunday Sabbath of Catholicism? Do they not follow the Christ-mass... of Catholicism and the lie of our Messiah's birthday on December 25th? Do they not follow the Catholic created lie of it's Pagan “Good Friday” and the Easter of Catholicism, and her advent, and her lent, and even her ash Wednesday?

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Let that sink in my friends... let that simmer in your heart and in your mind for just a few moments. Once again my friends I want to invite you to our study this coming 7th Day Sabbath entitled “The Anti Semitism of Today's Modern Day Christianity”. And I want you to see, know, and understand why James the brother of our Messiah told us that friendship with the world is enmity with our Father in Heaven and those who make themselves friends of this world make themselves enemies of our Father in Heaven. Join us live this Saturday morning September 16th, 2017... you'll be glad you did... and if your watching this video in our archives... you can always visit us at HolyImpactMinistries.com and watch these teachings at your leisure because they're all listen under our archive section... and we will in fact be building a special page at our website to help explain the anti semitism of today's modern day Christianity... so be looking for that as well.

With that all being said... lets turn our attention to James 4:7-10:

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jas 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Jas 4:9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

If we resist the devil... he will flee from us... but what do we have to do first? We must first draw near to our Father in Heaven and he will draw near to us... Lets turn to John 14:15-21:

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with

you forever,

Joh 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Joh 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Joh 14:21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

My friends we must cleans our hands and purify our hearts and not be double minded. What does James mean by not being "double minded"... being double-minded means that we come to church one day out of the week to praise our Father in Heaven and then we live like the devil the rest of the week... that's double-minded my friends... and make no mistake about it my friends... there are more double-minded self proclaiming Christians out in the world today than there are true God fearing, Holy Spirit filled, Law abiding, baptized by the water and the Spirit Torah observant Christians... by far.

But you see that's why we're here. We're here to shine the light so that they can find that narrow path, and so that we can usher them through the door that no man can shut... and that's what we're doing here today. We're here to expand the coming kingdom... we're here to stand in the gap... we're here to pray with out ceasing... we're here to feed the poor, to lift up the downtrodden, and to cloth the naked, and to contend for the faith. We're here to be that light on a hill... we are... the salt of the earth... we're here to share the water that causes people to never thirst again, and the bread of life that takes away the hunger of the spirit forever. We're here... because of him, and his only begotten Son. We're here because we are the clay that has been molded by the potter... vessels of righteousness in the making... beacons of light... a nation of Holy Priests that stand for one gospel, one truth, one baptism, one spirit, one only begotten Son and one Father of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. One body... one house of Israel... we are the heirs of the promise of Abraham.

Lets revisit James 4:11-12:

Jas 4:11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Jas 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

And so what is James talking about here in verses 11 and 12? Are we not to judge our brother?

The question is not whether or not we are to judge our brother... the question is with what judgment we are to judge him with. In order to understand what James is telling us here it's important that we have read the whole Bible and not just half of it. And once again my friends I would submit to you that this is one of those scriptures that we can not cherry pick out of our Bibles and run around telling each other that we should not judge one another because of what we find here in James chapter four.

I can not tell you how many times I've heard would be Christians proudly proclaim that they can do anything they want and you can not judge them because the Bible says "Judge not lest you be judged"! Once again... ignorance knows no bounds my friends... and we should not allow them to teach and preach things that they do not understand because they have chosen to cherry pick a favorite scripture out of the Bible that fits their agenda.

Lets once again start at the beginning of the book and lets see if we can get a better understanding of whether we should judge a brother or not... lets turn back to the first half of the book in Leviticus 19:15:

Lev 19:15 "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."

And now that we've seen what our Father wrote in the beginning of the book... lets test that to see if our Messiah was teaching the same thing as his Father... lets turn to John 7:24:

Joh 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

Seems like we have a little contradiction going on here doesn't it? Or does it?

It sounds and awful lot like James is telling us in James 4:11 and 12 that we shouldn't judge our brother... but that's not at all what we're hearing from our Father and his only begotten Son... so which is it?... Is there a contradiction here? The answer to that question is a resounding... "no". There is no contradiction here... what there is... is a lack of understanding because many of us have not read the whole book.

What we need to understand is that there are all kinds of judgments. There is the unlawful "Superficial judgment", there is the unlawful "Hypocritical judgment", there is the unlawful "Harsh and Unforgiving judgment", there is the unlawful "Self righteous judgment", and there is the unlawful "Untrue judgment" and then there is what our Messiah calls in John 7:24... "Right judgment".

"**Superficial judgment**" is when we judge people by their appearances. This is clearly unlawful judgment as we can see in John 7:24.

Joh 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

“**Hypocritical judgment**” is when we judge a brother for sinning while the whole time we ourselves are doing the exact same thing. Lets read Matthew 7:3-5:

***Mat 7:1** "Judge not, that you be not judged.*

***Mat 7:2** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.*

***Mat 7:3** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*

***Mat 7:4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?*

***Mat 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.*

Notice that our Messiah now seems to have changed his mind from John 7:24 where he told us to not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.... or did he? Lets examine Matthew 7:1 through 5 a little more closely. Notice what he says in verse 2:

***Mat 7:2** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.*

This is the key my friends... this is the context upon which our Messiah is speaking. If we judge our bother for doing wrong... we'd better make sure that we ourselves are not doing the same wrong ourselves... because with the judgment we pronounce... we will be judged with. The same measure of judgment that we use on our brother will be used on us. So if we're doing the same thing... and we are condemning a brother for doing the exact same thing we're doing... we ourselves... will be in danger of the same judgment that we are passing on our brother. What does he say in verse 5?

***Mat 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.*

Notice... that our Messiah says that once we take the speck out of our own eye... that we will then be able to take the speck out of our brothers eye. So in other words... once you have overcome that sin... and only once we've overcome that sin... then we can rightly judge our brother as being in sin and help him to overcome that sin because we ourselves have already overcome it. We've already removed the sin... or that speck from our own eye... and now we can help a brother remove that sin... or that speck from his eye because we know how it's done. The Apostle Paul says almost the exact same thing in the book of Romans 2:1-3:

***Rom 2:1** Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same*

things.

Rom 2:2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

Rom 2:3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

Once again my friends... this is “Hypocritical judgment” and is unlawful... but not if you are not guilty of practicing the same things.

“**Unforgiving judgment**” is also unlawful. If we see that a brother has repented and turned from his sin... and yet we continue to judge him as a sinner... this is unlawful because we all were sinners and it was by the mercy and the grace of our Father in Heaven and the work that his only begotten Son did at the cross that we were forgiven. So if we refuse to forgive a brother of his past sins... then our past sins will not be forgiven either... once again... the measure that we use against our brother will be used against us.

“**Self righteous judgment**” is unlawful as well. If we think that we are far and above our brother... and we think in our small sinful minds that we are more important than our brother... and that we have the power to condemn him because of who we are.... then we are guilty of unlawful judgment. Lets turn to Luke 18:9-14:

Luk 18:9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

Luk 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luk 18:11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

Luk 18:12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

Luk 18:13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

Luk 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

You see the Pharisee had passed an unlawful judgment on the tax collector because he thought in his small mind that he was better than his brother. He thought that because of his works... he had earned his way into the gates of the coming Kingdom. But as we all know... we are not saved by our works... our works complete our faith... they do not negate our faith... just as James has already told us in James 2:22.

“False judgment” is also unlawful and this should be understood with out saying. If we falsely accuse our brother we will not escape... and we can find that in Proverbs 19:5... not to mention thou shall not lie... and I don't think that we need to say any more concerning that one.

We can also take a look at what the Apostle Paul told the church at Corinth in 1st Corinthians 5:9-13:

*1Co 5:9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—
1Co 5:10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
1Co 5:11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.
1Co 5:12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?**
1Co 5:13 God judges those outside. **"Purge the evil person from among you."***

Clearly Paul is all about “Right judgment”. How can we know who it is that we are not to associate with if we do not judge them? In verse 12 Paul tells the church that we have nothing to do with outsiders. So if someone does not claim to be a Christian... and they do not claim to be a brother or a sister... we are not to judge them. They are outsiders and Paul tells us very clearly in verse 13... that our Father in Heaven judges them. But Paul tells us very clearly in verse 12 that we are to judge those who are inside the body.. (also known as the church).

Paul also chastises the Corinthian Church for allowing two brothers who have a dispute to take that dispute to people who are outside the church. According to Paul... differences between brothers are to be settled within the church... not in the public court system. Listen to what Paul teaches the Corinthian church in 1st Corinthians 6:1-6:

*1Co 6:1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?
1Co 6:2 Or **do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** And if the world is to be judged by you, **are you incompetent to try trivial cases?**
1Co 6:3 Do you not know that **we are to judge angels?** **How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!**
1Co 6:4 So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?
1Co 6:5 I say this to your shame. **Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers,**
1Co 6:6 **but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?***

Judging is an important part of a Christians life... but what we must understand is that there are lawful judgments that we can make... and there are unlawful judgments that we cannot make. Telling someone that they're gong to hell... is not a judgment that a Christian can make. That judgment is up to our Messiah who is the only one capable of making such a judgment... and this is exactly what James is trying to convey to us in James 4:12:

Jas 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Whether a brother is going to Heaven or Hell is a judgment call that only our Messiah is authorized to make by our Father in Heaven.

However... judging sin is another matter. If someone in the body is sinning... the body should make that judgment call and if they refuse to stop it... then according to the scripture we are to set them outside of the assembly just as Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 5:13.

Once again... reading the whole book is important my friends. Cherry picking scriptures out of the Bible is a dangerous gamble and should never be done with out reading the whole book and not just half of it. And so let us move forward in our walk knowing and understanding these things so that we ourselves do not stumble, and loose our own stability.

We can not preach the word properly or call out a wolf in sheep's clothing, or test the fruits of a man... or reprove, or rebuke, or exhort with out the ability to rightly judge my friends... and so it is just as Paul tells us... that we need to have the God given ability to judge... rightly.

And with that I will leave you with 2nd Timothy 4:1-5:

2Ti 4:1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

*2Ti 4:2 **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove**, **rebuke**, and **exhort**, with complete patience and teaching.*

*2Ti 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves **teachers to suit their own passions**,*

*2Ti 4:4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and **wander off into myths**.*

2Ti 4:5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2Ti 4:1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Mat 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

Mat 7:2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

Mat 7:3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

Mat 7:4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?

Mat 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.