

We read in the Gospel of St. Luke (6:37) this morning ... “Judge not” ...

And ... we also read...

“Can the blind lead the blind (6:39)?
shall they not both fall into the ditch?”

So let me ask you ... How can we make determinations while **not** judging and still lead others to Christ

(for without knowledge and determining between right and wrong – how can we guide and lead those,

who are among us and who are blind?)

Blind to the Gospel, Blind to the Christ, Blind to the truth.

This morning we will see the danger of interpreting scripture privately

(and even though in 2Pe 1:20 we are told:

“that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation”),

time and time again people, have in time past, and still do today misinterpret this scripture

and lead others into the very ditch of which our Lord speaks.

This passage of “Judging not” is one of the building blocks upon which the major Apostasy’s arise within the Church.

The “falling away from faith” which has taking place,

especially during the past 120 years of His Church,

is a false narrative which has been used to silence those who simply want to live and show forth their faith in their lives (especially Christians.)

We hear from many Christians, I am sure some with good intentions, over and over in today –

that we are not to pass judgement on others...

“who are you to judge” is repeated in repetition by those who have fallen into the ditch...

As we are asked, or even sometimes forced, into accepting and even endorsing things that are sinful and harmful.

This passage is often used as an **excuse for laxity** in the exercising of discipline within the church itself.

This claim **is not** an accurate defining of the Scripture itself.

And this heretical interpretation leads society in condemning the formation or expressing of any value or opinion whatsoever

as having to do what is right and wrong.

This sinful world seems to take pride, and loves nothing more, than to silence any voice that is a **“societal unfavorable opinion.”**

How Could this “not judging” be a key to Christianity?

Is this silencing the intent of the Gospel?

Are we supposed to hide the Good News?

Did Jesus **not intend** for us to spread His Gospel / because he was concerned that it might offend some people?

Is the sin of this world not to be revealed as such (?), just because some things or actions may be looked down upon or frowned upon and condemned?

Let me be clear:

we all are looked down upon and have been condemned by a righteous God,

simply because all of us are all sinners!

Are we not to love and care for our brethren?

Are we not to strive and guide, through an honest and pure presentation of the Gospel, those who are blind?

It is important that we remember that the Gospel that was canonized by His Church;

Yes, the Gospel was even defined by His Church;

His Church which was founded upon His Apostles themselves.

Too many Saints have spilled and sacrificed their own blood to allow such foolish and dangerous thoughts and teachings.

Within this very chapter, Jesus implies that we must regard (yes - “the judging”) of certain individuals as being hypocrites and evil...

And this is supported in Jh 7:24,

1 Cor 5:12; and 6:1-5;

Gal 1:8-9;

Phil 3:2;

1 Thess 2:14-15;

1 Tim 1:6-7;

Titus 3:2 & 10;

1 Jn 4:11;

2 JN 10;

3 Jn 9th chapter;

and many other passages(!),

so, it becomes very clear that no such conclusion (of not judging) can be correct or prohibited.

Let me be clear:

Yes my brethren the final judgement is reserved for God

(for He can let into Heaven whomsoever He pleases).

Simply stated, the “final judgement” is not ours to give (thank God),

for this final judgement is reserved for God only.

But to stretch this verse to a point of prohibiting any discourse as to right and wrong is simply the work of sin itself.

Yes, we are not to be brutes when correcting and teaching and we are to be gentle showing love when guiding others...

And yet as Christians, this is what we are called to do.

Can the Pharisees, or anyone else, who are blinded with pride, prejudice, and bigotry,

lead the blind people into the righteous way ...

shall not both fall together into the ditch.

God wants you to become strong advocates within your own families and the world, **so YOU must learn** and see truthfully the Gospel.

Cyril of Alexandria, a Church Father, is credited with this quote:

Make your fold with the sheep; flee from the wolves:

depart not from the Church.

As your Rector, **I warn you** to the dangers of roaming with the wolves, and departing from the sheep and from His Church.

The world in which we live (as CS Lewis stated) is full of deception and Satan and the secular world will restate 99 times a truth

all in order to get you to accept and believe one lie.

This forbidding to “judge” is one of those lies and it is very dangerous. The world rejoices each time it replaces the will of the Father with its own will.

That is why it is so important that each of you remain within the body of Christ which He established and still guides today.

That is why the doors of St. Michael’s are open every day – they are open for each of you that you may find comfort when needed.

This church is here to provide a space that you can share with **fellow sheep** of Christ,

as you flee the **wolves of the world**,

all while resting and strengthening and feeling the Peace of Christ –

all of this can be done within His loving arms within His House.

Daily you can receive His Grace through the His Holy Sacraments of His Church.

Weekly you can receive instruction on His word - through the Bible Studies and special classes (such as inquirers classes)...

Even during the Summer months we have each Sunday the Chat Room in the Parish Hall, at 9:30,

in which we discuss topics of today (based upon scripture.)

Each of you are invited to join us...

It is not only important that you are spiritually fed, but that you are spiritually fed with a Gospel given, explained and taught,

within the historical teachings of the Church itself.

As we have seen, the scripture can be interpreted in different ways.

When God states in Ex 3:14

I AM THAT I AM,

He is stating that He is eternal –

he does not evolve into something different and new...there is no evolution with God...

His Will and His Ways are not open to being transformed into something which is contrary to His Word...

Remember Jesus words (Jn 14:6)

I am **the way**,

the truth,

and **the life**:

no man cometh unto the Father, **but by me**.

Jesus embodies His own words by His tortured Body hung upon Cross in which He endured all pain and overcame death

and he did this

for each one of you.

We must not cheapen His Sacrifice through the changing His words, His ways, and His examples.

Do not just visit His Church weekly, but grow within its walls daily...

Allow the Church to feed you with its Sacraments

as you **walk within His Ways,**

for then you will find **The Truth,**

and you will be strengthened to live **The Life**

that He desires for each and every one of you...

And finally you will receive His Peace which is forever!

For those of you that are responsible for others – I, as your Rector, will state that there is no good excuse (except for health)

for you not to have those dependent on you in Church every week.

This ditch of which we have spoken is waiting for the falling away from the Church...and it is a danger to the soul to have such to occur.

Set your priorities to be His priorities...and He will protect you and your dependents – for He is strong – He is our God....