



## WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT

### The Real Issue

February 29, 2020

## 1 PREPARING

### A. THE SOURCE

**Matthew 7:1-3 (NIV)** • “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

**John 5:22 (NIV)** • “The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.”

**John 7:24 (NIV)** • “Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

**John 8:15 (NIV)** • “You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.”

**John 12:47 (NIV)** • “For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”

**Romans 2:1 (NIV)** • “At whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.”

**Romans 14:10 (NIV)** • “You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.”

**Romans 15:1 (NIV)** • “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak.”

**James 2:12, 13 (NIV)** • “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!”

**James 4:11, 12 (NIV)** • “Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”

(Additional passages in student lesson.)

### B. WHAT’S TO BE SAID ABOUT “WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT”

“Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His relationships with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes.

... His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes. While he ever bore Himself with divine dignity, He bowed with the tenderest regard to every member of the family of God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it was His mission to save" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 12).

Jesus sets the example for us, as citizens of His kingdom. For further study on how Jesus treated people who were by law under judgment, see *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 84-92, "Days of Conflict."

### C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Value those they don't understand or whose circumstances they don't know.
2. View others through Jesus' eyes of compassion, acceptance, and love.
3. Withhold judgment as they realize that they will be judged in the same way they judge others.

### D. MATERIALS NEEDED

**Beginning** • (Activity A) shoes; (Activity C) poster showing a complex picture with lots of things happening.

**Connecting** • Student lessons; Bibles.

**Applying** • Chalkboard or flipchart.

## 2 BRIDGING

### A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN

**Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students to:**

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.

3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

### B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at [www.realtimefaith.net](http://www.realtimefaith.net))
- >> Service project report

## 3 BEGINNING

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

### A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Have someone read **Matthew 7:1-5**.

**Say:** In this passage Jesus uses a technique called **hyperbole**. Hyperbole is a figure of speech that overstates for emphasis. **Separate into groups of three or four and take a couple of minutes to come up with your own expressions of hyperbole to make the same point that Jesus is making. When you are finished, your group will report to the rest of us. For example, you might say: Get the beach out of your own shoes before you try to get the grain of sand out of mine.** Allow the students time to work, then hear their reports.

**Debriefing • Say:** What is the real message of this exercise? (We should not criticize others when we are guilty of the same behavior ourselves.) **What is it called when we criticize others for their behavior or circumstances? (Judging) What about when we continue doing the wrong thing but condemn others for doing the same? Hint: it's in the last sentence of the**

**Scripture passage that we read.** (Hypocrisy)

## B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Either have the students take off their shoes and pass them to the person to the right of them or have an assortment of shoes of different sizes and styles (high heels, athletic shoes, sandals, etc.) for volunteers to try on.

Ask those with shoes other than their own to walk around the room once.

**Debriefing** • When everyone has finished, **ask:** **What was it like to walk in the other person’s shoes? How do your feet feel now? your back? Would you want to do it again? Why or why not?** (It’s too hard, painful, tiring.)

**Say:** **A Native American saying goes like this: “Don’t judge anyone until you have walked two moons in their moccasins.” A variation on this says: Don’t judge until you have walked a mile (or a kilometer) in their shoes.**

**Ask:** **What are those sayings trying to tell us?** (Only when we have experienced what someone else has experienced can we fairly judge them.) **Is that ever really possible?** (Actually, we can only try to understand their lives and treat them with love and care.) Have the students find and read **John 7:24**.

**Say:** **Jesus says to stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment. You can do that only if you live through the exact experiences that others do. Only Jesus was able to do that. Since our conduct and thinking are imperfect, we have no right to judge others.**

## C. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

You will need a poster showing a complex picture with lots of things happening, and a screen or blank wall. The picture should be something that the students have not seen before. You will show this scene for 10 seconds exactly.

**Say:** **I want you to concentrate on this picture**

**for 10 seconds.** Uncover the picture or turn on the electronic equipment.

After they have looked, ask one student: **What did you see in the picture? Please be specific about the details.** Then invite other students who may have seen other things to offer their recollections.

**Say:** **Witnesses to a crime often see the same scene differently because it happened so quickly. I showed you the picture for 10 seconds exactly. You all had the same amount of time to see it, but you saw different things. Why is that?** (Allow time for responses.)

Conclude with the following thoughts in your own words: No two people see anything in the same way. Even when we are all observing the same reality with our eyes, we interpret it differently in our brains. Those interpretations are based on our experience, our culture, our perception, and so on. So even if two people physically see the same thing, they give it different meanings. When we give our meaning to something someone else does without understanding their meaning, we are judging them.

## 4 CONNECTING

### A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

**Ask:** **Have you ever watched a TV program with a friend, and when it was over and you talked about it, it was as if you had seen a different program? For example, something you thought was funny, your friend thought was sad. Or something you thought was exciting, your friend thought was boring. Why do you think this is?** (Because of our backgrounds, experiences, and personalities, we see, understand, or perceive things differently.) **Have you ever gotten angry with your friend or put them down because they didn’t see things as you did? Or has someone—perhaps a family member—ever done that to you?** (Encourage students to share personal experiences.)

**Say:** **When people put us down because they**

don't understand our experience, they are judging us. As God's children, we are told not to judge, because we will be judged in the same way we judge others.

**Ask:** Do you avoid others or have you been avoided by others because you have judged them or they have judged you?

**Say:** Let's look at what the Bible says about judging others. Have students read **Matthew 7:1-3; Romans 2:1; James. 4:11, 12.**

## B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

This week's illustration is based on the same basic parable used in Lesson 3, about the blind men and the elephant. In that lesson the story helped demonstrate the fact that in the great controversy the devil has blinded people to the whole truth about God. This week the same basic illustration is used to point out that while there is an absolute "elephant" that doesn't change (the truth about God found in His Word), we do not each experience things in the same way and therefore shouldn't judge another person's experience.

You will find this week's version of the parable on page 98. You might have six students take the parts of the six blind men as you read the story.

**Debriefing • Ask: Which description of the elephant was correct?** (All were, to some degree. None were.) **What made it correct?** (The person's experience or perspective from which he felt the elephant.) **What made it incorrect?** (No one had seen the whole elephant.) **How is this like our lives?** (If the elephant is all possible human understanding of God, we have only partial understanding based on our experiences, culture, background, nationality, etc.) **(Note to teacher:** This is not to be confused with the idea that the devil is trying to convince humanity of, that there is no absolute truth as revealed to us in God's Word.)

**Say:** Only the Lord Jesus Christ lived the complete human experience. He was tempted, abandoned, rejected, hated, and scorned. Only He completely understands what we go through. Because of His experience on this earth, only He is qualified to judge others. Have someone find and read **John 5:22.** Continue: **Only Jesus has the authority to judge others, because He will do so with complete understanding and kindness.**

## C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

**Tell the following story:**

"A supply clerk checking in for the graveyard shift at his factory was warned of a small box that had been left on the loading dock. Printed on all sides were the words "DANGER! DO NOT TOUCH!" Everyone had been told to stay clear of the parcel until management could check out the situation. The night clerk didn't even want to breathe near the thing. He was greatly relieved when a supply foreman arrived in the morning.

"The foreman put on gloves and safety glasses. Slowly, carefully, he opened the box. Inside he discovered 25 signs that read, 'DANGER! DO NOT TOUCH!'"—Mark Finley, *Solid Ground*, p. 89.

**Ask: Why did judging the box create such concern?** (Fear, afraid the box contained something bad) **Ask: How does the above story fit in with judging others?** (We don't know the heart of others; we only see part of the story; we shouldn't jump to conclusions) **Say: Sometimes we think we know what happened, but don't have all the facts. At times we make judgments about someone when we don't even know them. Ask: What does this tell us about judging others?** (We should be careful about judging others, as we don't always know what has happened and appearances can be deceiving.)

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Write the following seven instances of behavior on a chalkboard or flipchart. Ask the students for their interpretation of each of the instances.

1. A person comes to a meeting half an hour after the scheduled starting time. (Sample response: This person is late and should at least apologize or give an explanation.)
2. Someone kicks a dog.
3. A woman carries a heavy jug of water on her head while her husband walks in front of her carrying nothing.
4. A male guest helps a female host carry dirty dishes into the kitchen.
5. While taking an exam, a student copies from the paper of another student.
6. A guest at a dinner party belches aloud after the main course.

After having the students share their interpretations or reactions, ask them to imagine the reactions of people from the following cultures: (Adapt the scenarios based on your culture.)

1. A culture in which people often arrive a half hour after the stated starting time. A culture in which meetings start at least an hour after the stated time.
2. A country in which dogs tend to carry disease. A country in which many dogs are wild and vicious.
3. A culture in which carrying water is seldom done by men.
4. A culture in which men are never expected to enter the kitchen to help.
5. A culture in which students are expected to help each other.
6. A culture in which belching is seen as an expression of appreciation for the food.

—Adapted from *Interpreting Behavior: Expanding Our Point of View*, at [www.peacecorps.gov/www/culturematters](http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/culturematters).

### B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the only person who can judge and why?
2. What steps can you take to avoid judging others?
3. What steps can you take when you feel you have been unfairly judged?
4. What do you discover when you “walk two moons” in someone’s moccasins?
5. In what way has the way you judged someone else come back to you?
6. Give an example in today’s society of judging someone else unfairly and what the consequences were.

## 6 CLOSING

### SUMMARY

**In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:**

Remember our Native American proverb that says, “Don’t judge anyone until you have walked two moons in their moccasins.” We can’t be everywhere at every time. We cannot read minds; we can barely read actions. As children of God if we never judge, we will never be wrong. We can rest in the fact that we have an all-knowing Judge who has everything under control.

(That Judge, however, has given clear instructions in His Word about the behavior that violates His absolute law of love. He provides wisdom to discern sin while instructing us not to judge the sinner.)

## FOR LESSON NINE:

THIS STORY IS FOR CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION.

Long ago six old men lived in a village in India. Each was born blind. The other villagers loved the old men and kept them away from harm. Since the blind men could not see the world for themselves, they had to imagine many of its wonders. They listened carefully to the stories told by travelers to learn what they could about life outside the village.

The men were curious about many of the stories they heard, but they were most curious about elephants. They were told that elephants could trample forests, carry huge burdens, and frighten young and old with their loud trumpet calls. But they also knew that the raja's daughter rode an elephant when she traveled in her father's kingdom. Would the raja let his daughter get near such a dangerous creature?

The old men argued day and night about elephants. "An elephant must be a powerful giant," claimed the first blind man. He had heard stories about elephants being used to clear forests and build roads.

"No, you must be wrong," argued the second blind man. "An elephant must be graceful and gentle if a princess is to ride on its back."

"You're wrong! I have heard that an elephant can pierce a man's heart with its terrible horn," said the third blind man.

"Please," said the fourth blind man. "You are all mistaken. An elephant is nothing more than a large sort of cow. You know how people exaggerate."

"I am sure that an elephant is something magical," said the fifth blind man. "That would explain why the raja's daughter can travel safely throughout the kingdom."

"I don't believe elephants exist at all," declared the sixth blind man. "I think we are the victims of a cruel joke."

Finally the villagers grew tired of all the arguments, and they arranged for the curious men to visit the palace of the raja to learn the truth about elephants. A young boy from their village was selected to guide the blind men on their journey. The smallest man put his hand on the

boy's shoulder. The second blind man put his hand on his friend's shoulder, and so on until all six men were ready to walk safely behind the boy who would lead them to the raja's magnificent palace.

When the blind men reached the palace, they were greeted by an old friend from their village who worked as a gardener on the palace grounds. Their friend led them to the courtyard. There stood an elephant. The blind men stepped forward to touch the creature that was the subject of so many arguments.

The first blind man reached out and touched the side of the huge animal. "An elephant is smooth and solid like a wall!" he declared. "It must be very powerful."

The second blind man put his hand on the elephant's limber trunk. "An elephant is like a giant snake," he announced.

The third blind man felt the elephant's pointed tusk. "I was right," he said decisively. "This creature is as sharp and deadly as a spear."

The fourth blind man touched one of the elephant's four legs. "What we have here," he said, "is an extremely large cow."

The fifth blind man felt the elephant's giant ear. "I believe an elephant is like a huge fan or maybe a magic carpet that can fly over mountains and treetops," he said.

The sixth blind man gave a tug on the elephant's fuzzy tail. "Why, this is nothing more than a piece of old rope. Dangerous, indeed," he scoffed.

The gardener led his friends to the shade of a tree. "Sit here and rest for the long journey home," he said. "I will bring you some water to drink."

While they waited, the six blind men talked about the elephant.

"An elephant is like a wall," said the first blind man. "Surely we can finally agree on that."

"A wall? An elephant is a giant snake!" answered the second blind man.

"It's a spear, I tell you," insisted the third blind man.

"I'm certain it's a giant cow," said the fourth blind man.

"Magic carpet. There's no doubt," said the fifth blind man.

"Don't you see?" pleaded the sixth blind man. "Someone used a rope to trick us."

Their argument continued, and their shouts grew louder and louder.

"Wall!"

"Snake!"

"Spear!"

"Cow!"

"Carpet!"

"Rope!"

"Stop shouting!" called a very angry voice. It was the raja, awakened from his nap by the noisy argument.

"How can each of you be so certain you are right?" asked the ruler.

The six blind men considered the question. And then, knowing the raja to be a very wise man, they decided to say nothing at all.

"The elephant is a very large animal," said the raja kindly. "Each man touched only one part. Perhaps if you put the parts together, you will see the truth. Now, let me finish my nap in peace."

When their friend returned to the garden with the cool water, the six men rested quietly in the shade, thinking about the raja's advice.

"He is right," said the first blind man. "To learn the truth we must put all the parts together. Let's discuss this on the journey home."

The first blind man put his hand on the shoulder of the young boy who would guide them home. The second blind man put a hand on his friend's shoulder, and so on until all six men were ready to travel together.—Retold by Donelle Blubaugh (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/guides/looking/story22.html>).



## STUDENT LESSON

# WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT

## The Real Issue

February 29, 2020

### Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:1-3, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 24, Christ’s Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary:** “The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 125, 126

### THE REAL ISSUE

“As a captive in a foreign land, Daniel determined in his late teens to be true to God. Ushered into the luxurious banquet hall of the Babylonian king, he refused to worship the king’s idols, drink the king’s wine, or eat the king’s unclean delicacies. Yet he did it with such

grace that he eventually won the hearts of his captors.

“Daniel’s spiritual integrity continued throughout his life. When he was in his mid-80s, he faced perhaps his greatest test. Conniving coworkers schemed against him. They slyly influenced the king to pass a decree forbidding worship of any god except himself for 30 days. Obviously Daniel could not comply. The price for disobedience was high.

“The prophet did not make his decision based on the consequences of his actions. He made it based on faithfulness to God’s Word. Had he considered the consequences, death in the lions’ den, he might have yielded. Being torn apart limb by limb by ferocious bloodthirsty lions is not a very pleasant thought. Anytime the consequences of a decision become the driving force in making a decision, we are likely to yield.

“One of the most successful coaches in the history of professional football was Vince Lombardi, of the Green Bay Packers. A reporter asked why they gave so much of themselves each Sunday. He queried, ‘Why is your team notably different? Why do you leave everything out on the field?’ The players responded, ‘We are not playing for the crowd in the stands or the millions in the television audience. We aren’t overly concerned about what the news media says. We are playing for one thing: “the coach’s eyes.” When we review the film Monday mornings, we want to know we have satisfied Coach Lombardi.’

“Daniel did not play to the crowds. He lived to please his heavenly Father. He played for the ‘Father’s eyes.’



“When the final films of life are shown, living life to please God is what will truly count. The great heroes of faith all lived for a purpose. They stood above the masses. They viewed life from a different perspective. They did not live to please themselves or the crowd. The prime purpose of their life was to please God. In making this fundamental decision, Daniel lived a centered life. God’s formula for true peace and lasting success is still the same today.”—Mark Finley, *Solid Ground*, p. 206.

## Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Romans 2:1.
- » Joshua’s dad and mom divorced. In the years after the divorce Joshua acted out his anger at his situation by getting into trouble with the law. After a few years he straightened out his life. He was doing well in school, had an after-school job, and was being considered for an athletic scholarship for a local private school. Eventually he might even receive a college scholarship, which would mean that his mother wouldn’t have to worry about paying for college. Then some money was stolen from the place where he worked. Everyone acted as if Joshua had gone back to his old ways. Was that fair of them? Why or why not?

## Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON CHRIST’S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

- » Read Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 20:12; Revelation 22:11, 12.
- » Jesus was tempted just as we are. Through prayer and trust in His heavenly Father He resisted the devil and lived a sinless life. He understands what we face and go through. He offers us help in dealing with our strug-

gles to overcome sin. He has the right to be our judge because He lived without sinning. And He knows us—everything about us! He knows what is in our hearts. We cannot deceive Him. He has begun the investigative judgment that will determine our faithfulness to Him.

- » What does God know about you and your heart?

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- » How can you prepare to meet Jesus?

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- » Fill in the blanks.

“Therefore, brethren, having \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the Holiest by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ over the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, let us \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ in full assurance of faith, having our \_\_\_\_\_ from an evil conscience and our \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ water” (Hebrews 10:19-22, NKJV).

## Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read James 2:12, 13.
- » These are the years when what your friends think of you is probably more important than even what the adults in your life think of you. At this time in your life you probably have a specially chosen group of friends you like to be with. They probably share your interests, likes and dislikes, way of dressing, things to do in your free time, and music that you listen to. And there may not seem to be

room in your life for many other people. And that's OK up to a certain point.

- » Good friends will help you get through this difficult time in your life when it seems as if your mind and body aren't in agreement with each other about anything. Because you may feel awkward within yourself, you may not want to be around someone else who seems awkward in your social setting. Unfortunately, instead of being compassionate toward those who are unlike you, you may tend to exclude those people from your life based on what they seem like on the outside.
- » Jesus says we have to get over it. He was the ultimate example of not judging and not excluding. He treated everyone with respect and concern—even when He pointed out things in their lives that were clearly against God's law. You can make sure that people are included in group gatherings, that you refuse to participate when others talk about them, and that you give gentle hints that might help them get along better with others.
- » And if you don't? One day you may be in their position, and they may treat you the same way you've treated them. God says so.

### Wednesday BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » In the Bible are texts telling us how God feels about judging. Below are a few of them. Please fill in the blanks.

1. "Do not \_\_\_\_\_, or you too will be \_\_\_\_\_. For in the same way you \_\_\_\_\_ others, you will be \_\_\_\_\_, and with the \_\_\_\_\_ you use, it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you. Why do you look at the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ in your

\_\_\_\_\_?" (Matthew 7:1-3, NIV).

2. "The Father \_\_\_\_\_ no one, but has \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_" (John 5:22, NIV).
3. "Stop \_\_\_\_\_ by mere \_\_\_\_\_, but instead \_\_\_\_\_" (John 7:24, NIV).
4. "You \_\_\_\_\_ by human \_\_\_\_\_, I pass \_\_\_\_\_ on no one" (John 8:15, NIV).
5. "At whatever point you \_\_\_\_\_ another, you are \_\_\_\_\_ yourself, because you who pass \_\_\_\_\_ do the same things" (Romans 2:1, NIV).
6. "Speak and act as those who are going to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the law that gives freedom, because \_\_\_\_\_ without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ triumphs over \_\_\_\_\_!" (James 2:12, 13, NIV).
7. "Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks \_\_\_\_\_ a brother or sister or \_\_\_\_\_ them speaks \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and judges it. When you \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, you are not keeping it, but sitting in \_\_\_\_\_ on it. There is only one \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor?" (James 4:11, 12, NIV).

## Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read John 5:22.
- » Review the memory text.
- » God says He, through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the only one who can judge people. And rightly so. They created us, and Jesus lived the life that is ours in this world. No one else in history has had the range of experience of being tempted and rejected as He has. Only He understands the experience of every person who has ever lived and will ever live.
- » So if we can't have Jesus' experience, what gives us the right to judge? Nothing and no one. All we can do is to ask Him for the grace to look at others through His eyes, to listen to others' stories about their lives and act accordingly. Even when we can tell that they are doing something God forbids, Jesus asks us not to condemn but to help.
- » And what if we don't? Jesus Himself tells us that in the same way we judge others, we will be judged. Think of a time when you've had the experience of being wrongly judged. How did it feel? How would you do things differently next time?
- » Remember, God is a God of second chances, if you've judged someone unfairly before, determine through His power to not do it again.

## Friday APPLYING

- » Read James 4:11, 12.
- » Remember the proverb "Don't judge any man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins"? Think of experiences you have had being judged or judging others. Think of some other ways to express experiencing what someone else has experienced in order to understand them. For example, *Don't judge a person until you have eaten the food they have eaten*. Grab a pencil and write out some of your ideas in the following space.

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