

I believe...

Part Four: "I believe Jesus as Judge"

Reflection and study notes

Stretch: - (Some hard questions that deserve honest answers)



What do you believe?

Jesus as Judge is an unpopular belief given the two prevailing values of our society; relativism and tolerance.

(How are we to judge without being judgemental?)

Relativism holds that everyone can have their own truth. Truth as such does not exist other than the truth you hold as an individual., "My truth in mine, your truth is yours".

Tolerance accepts the truths others hold and rather than judging them accepts them as true. This is even supported by such bible references as "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."

Mtt 7:1&2

How have the values of relativism and tolerance shaped New Zealand society today for better or worse?

"A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him."

Proverbs 28:11

How has being "PC" led to a loss of discernment?

One way to become more accepting and tolerant is to lower standards and therefore become less judgmental. How has our society lowered its standards?

Why do you think the view of God as judge is so unpopular today?

What is the difference between not being judgemental and using judgement?

Cardio – (a workout of your mind and soul)



The Apostles creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, **whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

1. Life is _____ by _____ and _____

Time will tell ...

Time has a way of judging what we do today. Those who live in the "now" fail to appreciate that we will be judged by history.

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:7

"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." Matthew 7:16-20

"Truth" like the law of gravity exists whether we choose to believe it or not and ultimately will judge us. I can jump out of an aeroplane with "my truth" (you may even be tolerant of my behaviour) but I will still be judged by the law of gravity.

Judgement is a natural consequence of time and truth

When Jesus claimed to be "the way, the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6) he was claiming to be the Judge of time and truth.

NOTES

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Resistance

(Resistance is your chance along with others to "push back" and test your ideas, debate and discuss.)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Mtt 5:17-20

How do God's standards provide for the well being of human life? See Exodus 20 & Mtt 5,6&7

What happens when the standards are broken?

How does God meet us when we have fallen short of his standards?

Look up the following verses; What do they say about Jesus as Judge?

Mtt13:36-43, 16:26-28, 25:31-46,

Jn 5:21-30, 9:35-41, 12:47-50

Balance

What right do Christians have to claim absolute truth?



As a result of this study how has your view of God changed? What do you really believe and how will that shape your life?

2. It's not _____ you know but _____ you know

Jesus was anything but "politically correct" in fact that's what got him crucified! Jesus came to set the standards of abundance of life and was prepared to judge people's actions against those standards (see Matt 5,6,7).

Given that judgement is inevitable – better know what kind of Judge you will appear before.

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16

3. God's purpose in judgement is not _____ but _____

This is one of the greatest truths of the Gospel that many people miss. Far too many people get the wrong end of the stick and see God as one who is "hell bent" on punishment, the good news is that God is heaven bound in grace. He wants to help you get it right! So much so that he sent his son not to condemn but to save!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." John 3:16-21

I believe ... **He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe...?