**The book of James pt 8:  *The Judgment Free Zone***

# …**He gives grace to the humble. Posture of the humble** – I no more deserve the mercies of God than anyone else.

# James 4:11-17

* **When we speak against someone, we have placed ourselves in the position of judge – above someone**

speaks against … judges the law; -- by speaking ill, one breaks the Law and deems it unworthy of obedience

Leviticus 19:16 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

* ***Slanderer*** – [râkı̂yl] a scandal monger (travelling about like a spice merchant): - slander, a talebearer.

Matthew 7:1-2 "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.

* Choose – New or OLD covenant life. Cannot ask for mercy from God and NOT extend it to others!

**Judgment** – when we assign motives to someone, then condemn them as willful criminals

* Calling sin for what it is – NOT judgment. We cross the line when we get into motives 🡪 condemnation
* We judge ourselves by our intentions, others by their actions.
* In actuality – under the New Covenant, our motives are the same as our actions: adultery/ speech
* TRUTH: ALL believers are in a **Rom 7:15-25** struggle: APPLY THIS WHEN LOOKING AT A BROTHER’S SIN

Luke 6:36-37 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.

**DON’T JUDGE SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE THEY SIN DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU**

* wisdom from above is WITHOUT PARTIALITY: We judge those we love less harshly than those we don’t
* Some of the worst judgments are toward those of different socioeconomic/ spiritual statuses:
  + The poor tend to judge the rich as being snooty, earning wealth by unfair means/ systems
  + The rich tend to judge the poor as being lazy, or unwise stewards of their resources

i.e. Examine relationships – same status, generally speaking? (Natural wealth AND spiritual wealth)

* Those born into a Christian family get a head start up the mountain – (but still must maintain it!)
* Judging someone without a clear sense of their past: you don’t know where they have come from!
* Those who start down the road – like Israel – tremendous advantage, but fell into racist pride and thinking more highly than they should about their religious traditions.

***Like White collar crime vs. common crime.*** – Which does more damage?

* Sin which isn’t obvious is often the worst (pride, self-righteousness, vain ambition/ imagination, judgments, unforgiveness)
* This is why the hard words about the wealthy follow this section

v.13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow” – to those who seem to have control over their lives…

* Presumption – I have been wise and faithful and therefore tomorrow I have my life all planned out…those who do not are unwise and that’s why they are poor.
* Truth – life can really mess you up! (Homeless guy on subway)