



# WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2023 Issue No. 18  
May 14, 2023

**Sunday** May 14, 2023

**Pastor** David Miklas

**Message:** The Family of God - # 12

**Phone:** 717-715-3317

**E-mail:** [pastormiklas@aol.com](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com)

**Text:** Matthew 7:1-6

## WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS

II Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

The wonderful grace of Jesus will be the theme that will echo throughout the corridors of heaven during all eternity. It should also be the joyful exclamation of every Christian now whenever he thinks of Calvary and the deep love of our Savior.

"**Wonderful Grace of Jesus**" is one of the most inspiring hymns in our hymnals, and it has been used extensively by both choirs and congregations since it was written and composed by Haldor Lillenas in 1918. Born in Norway, Mr. Lillenas came to the United States as a child. He married Bertha Mae Wilson, a songwriter also, and together they traveled extensively, furnishing songs and choirs for many of the leading song leaders in the country, including the noted Charles Alexander. Mr. Alexander found this hymn, among the approximately 4,000 that Lillenas wrote, to be particularly useful as a mass choir selection in the great crusades in the early years of this century. The song has remained popular ever since. The reminder of Christ's "**all sufficient grace**" that is truly "**deeper than the mighty rolling sea**" and "**higher than the mountain**" still moves us to stand in awe each time we sing it in a church service.

Contemplate again the "**scope of your transgressions**" and the "**forgiveness and love of Christ as He stretches out His hand to you.**" Praise His precious name as you go singing—

Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Greater than all my sin;  
How shall my tongue describe it,  
Where shall its praise begin?  
Taking away my burden,  
Setting my spirit free;  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Reaching to all the lost,  
By it I have been pardoned,  
Saved to the uttermost;  
Chains have been torn asunder,

Giving me liberty;  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Reaching the most defiled,  
By its transforming power,  
Making him God's dear child,  
Purchasing peace and heaven  
For all eternity—  
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain: Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,  
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;  
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,  
All-sufficient grace for even me!  
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,  
Greater far than all my sin and shame;  
Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,  
Praise His Name!

In *His* Amazing Grace  
Pastor David Miklas

\*\*\*\*\*

## Church Etiquette

- 1. Come. Never miss church unless it is absolutely necessary.** George Washington's pastor said of him, "No company ever kept him from church."
- 2. Come early.** Rushing into church at the last minute is not conducive to true worship.
- 3. Come with your whole family.** The church service is not a convention that a family should merely send a delegate.
- 4. Take a place toward the front of Church.** Leave the rear seats for those who may come late, and for backsliders, and families with children.
- 5. Be devout. The church is not a theater or place of amusement.** You come to worship God, not to whisper, lounge or sleep. God's house deserves our very utmost reverence.
- 6. Help strangers to find and follow the service.** If they have no hymn book or Bible share yours with them. Sing! Join in the worship! Don't just sit!
- 7. Always remember that strangers are the guests of the church members.** Treat them with the same courtesy as you would if they visited your home.
- 8. Give a good offering.** God loveth a cheerful giver. Freely ye have received.
- 9. Never rush for the door after the benediction as though the church were on fire.** Speak and be spoken to. Be congenial.
- 10. Never stay away from church because the church is not perfect.** How lonesome you would feel in a perfect church.

# "The Scarlet Sin of the Church: Fault-finding"

In our study on the subject of "How to Treat One Another in the Family of God" we have examined:

"How to be Devoted to One Another"	Romans 12:10
"How to Treat the Broken Hearted"	Psalms 34:19
"How to Treat the Fallen Brother"	Galatians 6:1-5
"How to Bear Others Irritating Qualities"	Ephesians 4:1-3
"How to Treat Your Enemies"	Matthew 5:43-47
"How to Stop Strife in the Family of God"	I Corinthians 12:12
"How to Comfort One Another"	Colossians 2:1-2; 4:11
"How to Pray for One Another"	Psalms 34:19
"How to Pray for Your PASTOR"	Galatians 6:1-5
"How to Serve One Another"	Matthew 20:20-28

In this message we come to a topic found in the **Sermon on the Mount** in Matthew 5-7. This is one of the great Sermons preached by our Lord. Yet on the other hand, it is perhaps one of the most misunderstood messages that Jesus gave.

One **group** says it is God's plan of salvation, that if we ever hope to go to heaven we must obey these rules.

Another **group** calls it a "**charter for world peace**" and begs the nations of the earth to accept it.

A third **group** tells us that the **Sermon on the Mount** does not apply to us today. Its application will come during the period of the millennial kingdom.

However, if we are to understand the **Sermon on the Mount** I believe the key is found in Matthew 5:20, "**For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees...**" The key word here is "**RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"

The religious leaders had an artificial, external righteousness based on law. But the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** Jesus described is a **RIGHTEOUSNESS** that begins internally, in the heart.

The Pharisees were concerned about the minute details of **CONDUCT**, but they neglected the major matter of **CHARACTER**. Remember that **CONDUCT** always flows out of **CHARACTER**.

The **Sermon of the Mount** does have definite applications for us today. However, its application is not to the **UNSAVED** world, but rather to the **SAVED** world of individual believers. Let me point out to you six rules for the redeemed to obey:

The **MONEY** rule of Matthew 6:19-21, "**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"

The **WORRY** rule of Matthew 6:31-33, "**Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**"

The **JUDGMENT** rule of Matthew 7:1-2, "**Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.**"

The **PRAYER** rule of Matthew 7:7-8, "**Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;**

knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (8) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

The **GOLDEN** rule of Matthew 7:12, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

In this message let’s focus our attention on the “**THE JUDGMENT RULE**” found in Matthew 7:1-6,

“Judge not, that ye be not judged. (2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. (3) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. (6) Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

The parallel passage is found in **Luke 6:37-38** where we read,

“Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: (38) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

In this message I want to be as loving as I can possibly be, but as truthful as God's Word declares concerning what we call “**FAULT-FINDING, the Scarlet Sin of the church.**” Fault-finding is one of the most visible, yet unchecked sins found in almost every church.

The word “judge” in our text means **one who set himself up over another**. The text is saying, “**If you do set yourself up as a judge over others, then the same judgment that you pass on to others is going to come home to roost on you.**”

Jesus said this because there is only one Supreme Judge and His name is God. Romans 14:11-12 tells us, “**For it is written, As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of HIMSELF to God.**”

**One day I will give an account of MYSELF to God.  
One day you will give account of YOURSELF to God.**

Look, who am I and who are you to have the authority to sit in judgment over someone else in any fashion? The passage doesn't mean that you can't look at somebody's life and judge them by their FRUITS, for in verse 20 we read, “**Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**”

In Proverbs 25:2 the Bible says, “**It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings to search out the matter.**” It is wrong to make a judgment without first gathering enough facts to determine a right judgment. Often, we are too quick to believe everything we hear, rather than taking the time to check out the matter concerning the truth of it.

**There will be times** you will hear something about your preacher. Most honest preachers have found it necessary to live by this phrase, “**I will please some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time. Rather, it is my intention to please God all the time.**”

**There will be times** you will not be satisfied with decisions, particular ministries or programs in our church. Maybe they don't make sense or they are not run the way you think they ought to be run. Please honor me and bring glory to God by first checking out the facts before you jump on a “**NEGATIVE BAND-WAGON**” or start a “**FAULT-FINDING CLUB.**”

**When you start a negative band-wagon or fault-finding club, not only will you lose credibility**

among your friends, but your children will also be affected. It is also possible that the unsaved, who may be watching your fault-finding club, will still be LOST, and on their way to an ETERNITY without Christ, all because you have been nursing your grudge over someone or something.

If you are the kind of person who makes judgments on the basis of what somebody else says without gathering the facts for yourself, Jesus says you are going to be judged in the same way.

Follow me again in **verses 3-5**, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (4) Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? (5) Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

**A beam** is a long log on which the whole house rests. It's like a rafter that spans the whole length of a building, a huge piece of lumber.

**A mote** is a splinter or a speck of sand or dust that might get in a person's eye when they are working the beam. You may not be able to see it, but it gets in your eye and irritates the daylight out of you.

Jesus said. "Why in the world do you behold the splinter that is in your brother's eye when you are walking around with a beam sticking out of your eye that you are ignoring?" Jesus is talking about taking a look at your own life and correcting your own faults before attempting to judge other people's faults.

What is the purpose of **SELF-JUDGMENT**? It is to prepare us to serve others.

**As Christians we are obligated to help each other grow in grace. But when we do not first judge ourselves, we not only hurt ourselves, but we also hurt those to whom we could minister.**

The Pharisees **JUDGED** and **CRITICIZED** others to make themselves look good. But Christians should judge themselves first, so they can help others to look good. There is a big difference. The Pharisees saw the sins of other people, but they would not look at their own sins.

Having pastored in a military town for twenty-three years, I can relate to this story:

**In the military you have what is known as an IG inspection, or the Inspector General's Inspection. When this inspection occurs, everyone is on alert to make sure everything is spit-shined and polished and in its place. One day the Inspector General arrived to make his inspection and observe the troops.**

**He stopped in front of one soldier and asked him some questions, just to see how this guy was doing and what he had learned. The general whispered something to another officer who took notes. Then he passed on to the next guy.**

**He came to another soldier and looked him up and down, whereupon he looked the soldier right in the eye and said, "Soldier, button that button on your pocket." The soldier stood there silent for a minute. The general repeated,, "Soldier, did you hear me? Button that button on your pocket." The soldier clicked his heels together, took one step forward and buttoned the general's button on his pocket.**

You may find that story amusing, but how often do we as God's people **NEGLECT** to recognize our own faults, and then turn right around and condemn someone else's little misdemeanor.

In our remaining time today, please allow me to use this passage to put **FOUR** handles on this scarlet sin of faultfinding.

**FIRST: Fault-finding comes from unholy motives.** Our fault-finding is not really to help

the person who's at fault. Rather, we find fault with them in order to hurt them. I've met people who think it's God's divine call on their lives to search and find every fault in other people's lives. We find an illustration of this in Mark 14:3-9 where we read,

**"And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. (4) And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? (5) For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. (6) And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. (7) For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. (8) She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. (9) Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her."**

They were examining the **SPLINTER** in this woman's life, whom we know to be Mary of Bethany, instead of the **BEAM** in their lives. They were not trying to **HELP** Mary. They were trying to **HURT** her. They were trying their best to make themselves look better in the Lord's eyes.

Folks, isn't it time we stop trying to **ELEVATE** our own position by tearing **DOWN** the positions of others? In Psalm 75:6-7 we read, **"For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. BUT GOD IS THE JUDGE: HE PUTTETH DOWN ONE, AND SETTETH UP ANOTHER."**

Here is a quote I have saved for many years. Listen carefully, **"A lot of people are convinced that if we could get all the church people cleaned up, we'd have a perfect church. I suppose that is true. But one thing we have failed to realize is that we CAN'T CLEAN UP ANYBODY. ONLY THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAN CLEANSE AND PURIFY."**

It would be wonderful if all the church leaders, starting with myself, could be absolutely without fault. But I know and you know that **EVERY ONE OF US HAS A PROBLEM** of one sort or another with which the Spirit of God is dealing.

**ALL OF US HAVE A THORN IN THE FLESH.  
ALL OF US HAVE TO BATTLE WITH SOMETHING.**

Yet in spite of this knowledge, we seem to always try to find and expose every sin in a brother while we ignore our own, or at least we try to keep them hidden. **BUT THE SCRIPTURES TELL US THAT OUR SINS WILL FIND US OUT.**

**SECOND: Fault-finding causes great hurt to the one in whom you find fault.** In Proverbs 18:13 we read, **"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."** Precisely it says, **"IT IS FOOLISH AND SHAMEFUL TO JUMP TO A CONCLUSION BEFORE HEARING BOTH SIDES OF A STORY."**

In the next verse we read in verse 14, **"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit, who can bear?"** God says, if you wound a man's spirit you will kill his desire to continue the fight.

Because of this matter of **FAULT-FINDING**, we have a lot of wounded **CHRISTIANS** roaming around from one church to another.

Because of this matter of **FAULT-FINDING**, we have a lot of lost **CHILDREN** because their parents cannot find a perfect church.

**THIRD: Fault-finding causes greater hurt to the fault-finder than to the one with**

**whom he found fault.** In other words fault-finding will blind a person to his own faults. Someone said,

"Whatever you've been seeking is what you're going to find. If you want to find problems in people's lives you can find them. If you are looking for little things, you are going to find them." For example, if you put me under a critical microscope:

Some will not like the way I dress.  
Some will not like my preaching.  
Some will not like the changes made in the ministry.  
Some will say the changes are not coming fast enough.  
Some will say... you name it, someone will say it!

Others have said, "As long as we are doing what God wants us to do, that's all that matters. To that I say, Amen!" **IT'S BEST IF WE GET RID OF THE SPLINTER BUSINESS AND GET BUSY SERVING GOD IN SOME AREA OF THIS MINISTRY. WE MUST KEEP OUR EYES ON THE LORD AND NOT ON WHAT SOMEONE IS, OR IS NOT, DOING TO OUR SATISFACTION."**

The truth is: the more busy we get **praying, serving, winning-souls, encouraging** one another, **loving and helping to meet the needs** of others, the less we would notice to complain about. The keener our eyes become to the faults of others, the more blind we become to our own faults.

**FOURTH: Fault-finding creates a Spirit of pride.** The hardest people in the world to deal with are people who see somebody else's faults, but don't realize they also have a problem. When the invitation is given, these most likely are the people who look at others coming forward, but they themselves will not budge from their seats.

In Galatians 6:15 we read "But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another." Folks, I am not worried that the devil's crowd outside these walls will destroy our church. I am worried about the fault-finding crowd on the inside who has the potential to damage this ministry. Especially since God's grace can work through us to alter the outcome.

**PUTTING PEOPLE DOWN, or SETTING YOURSELF UP or JUDGING and CONDEMNING OTHERS** will never build the body of Christ.

Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirred up strife, but love covereth all sins."  
Romans 12:19, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay saith the Lord."

If a brother or sister in Christ is not doing what we think is right let us **HOPE HE CHANGES**. We ought to **PRAY** for him. We ought to **HELP** him. Therefore;

We are to seek **MERCY** not **VENGEANCE**.  
We are to seek **RECONCILIATION** not **RETALIATION**.  
We are to seek **FORGIVENESS** not **VINDICATION**.  
We are to seek **PATIENCE** not **RESISTANCE**.

If this message has spoken to your heart, and you recognize that you are guilty of fault-finding, **REPENT** of this damaging habit. In turn **REDIRECT** your energy to edify and encourage. Let's destroy the Scarlet Sin of the Church: **FAULT-FINDING!**

\*\*\*\*\*

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**The Scarlet Sin of the Church: Fault-finding**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."

Romans 10:13, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **“I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, [pdmikBBM@aol.com](mailto:pdmikBBM@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

The **“Weekly SERMON”** was sent as a ministry of Bible Baptist Ministry, `4 United Zion Circle, Lititz, 17543. **Privacy policy: your e-mail address will not be sold, or shared with any third party.**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING PERMISSION TO COPY:** The **“Weekly SERMON”** is reproduced in several formats, therefore, in its original form, without any changes, the **“Weekly SERMON”** may be copied and re-transmitted by electronic mail, and copies may be printed for individual or ministry purposes, provided that such copying, re-transmission, printing, or other use is not for profit or other commercial purpose. Any copying, re-transmission, distribution, printing, or other use of the **“Weekly SERMON”** must set forth in full the heading that is given before each **“Weekly SERMON.”** Any other request for use, please contact Bible Baptist Ministries at [pastormiklas@aol.com](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com) or by phone at **717-625-2992**.