

Discernment Vs Negativism

August 01, 2010

Text

Mt. 7:1-5

Objectives:

1. To differentiate between right and wrong and between good and bad.
2. To encourage the believers to develop the gift of discernment.

Introduction:

Jesus' statement " Stop judging " is against the kind of hypocritical and judgemental attitude that tears others down in order to build oneself up. Jesus calls us to be discerning rather than negative, not judgemental but not tolerating sin. Matt.7:1-5

Have you ever been around someone who's attitude is constantly negative or critical? Someone who finds something bad about every situation? This type of person can be an extremely negative force in our lives. Deuteronomy 1: 23-40 .e.g 12 spies

Definition

Negativism - Considering only the bad side or to expect the worst outcome in any circumstances, the practice of looking in the gloomy and dark side of things.

Discernment - A power to see, to discover, recognize of what is not evident to the average mind. (pagkilala, pag unawa ,pagkaintindi o talas ng isip).

Negativism

- (1) The Attitude of Negative Spirit :Matt.7:1-5
 - a) Judgemental
 - b) Magnifying Others Fault
 - c) Making Excuses of Ones Own Fault-self righteousness
 - d) Fearful And Immobile Num. 13:31-33
- (2) The Power Of Negative Opinion - Result :Deuteronomy.1:23-40
 - a) Can Result in Disobedience - Deuteronomy 1:26

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- b) Cause Rebellion- Deuteronomy 1:26/ Nm.14:4
- c) Create Murmuring- Deuteronomy 1:27/ Nm. 14:1-3
- d) Create a backsliding spirit
- (3) The Result of negativity
 - Blocks Blessing 2 Kings 7:1-2 / Deuteronomy 1: 34-35,37
 - Illus: The 12 spies, 10 were negative and only 2 were positive.
 - Nm. 13:31-14:4

Discernment

1. Wisdom from God is needed to increase in discernment is - James 1:5
2. The Gift of Discernment is Essential For Spiritual Growth- Philippians 1: 10
 - a) To be aware of false teaching and false prophet-1 John 4:1-3
 - b) To maintain our Christian morals and values- Philippians 1:9-10
 - c) To expose people who sounded religious but had no personal relationship with God- 2Tim. 3:5
3. The Growth in Discernment bring more victories-Nm.13: 30
Illustration: Caleb and Joshua

Conclusion:

When facing a tough decision, don't let the negative cause you to lose sight of the positives . Weigh both sides carefully .

Don't let difficulties blind you from God's power to help and His promise to guide. But focus on the positive- asking God's direction and believing His promises and lastly step out in faith.