

Judged by the World

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from an outline by Mark Copeland)

Introduction:

- A. How do you imagine Judgment Day?
 - 1. On Judgment Day, we will be judged by Jesus Christ - John 12:48
 - 2. Acts 17:31; 2Cor. 5:10; 2Tim. 4:1
- B. Jesus spoke of others judging on that Day - Luke 11:31-32
 - 1. In what way will they judge the generation of Jesus' day?
 - 2. Might they also judge us on that day?

I. THE QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

- A. Historical background: The Queen of the South was also known as the Queen of Sheba - 1Kings 10:1
 - 1. "Sheba was likely a city of Arabia, possibly modern Yemen, located 1200 miles south of Judea." (Hendriksen)
 - 2. She came to see Solomon with a great retinue and great wealth.
 - a. 1Kings 10:2-13
 - b. But instead was amazed by Solomon's wisdom and wealth.
 - c. They both exchanged gifts.
- B. How she will condemn them:
 - 1. She traveled a great distance to hear truth; they had the truth at hand - Luke 11:31
 - 2. She traveled to hear Solomon's great wisdom; they had access to One far wiser and greater.
 - 3. By means of her past example and future testimony, she will condemn those who rejected Jesus.
- C. Can she condemn us?
 - 1. If we reject such easy access to the Word of God today?
 - 2. If we allow such things as time and distance to keep us from the truth, attending services, going to Gospel meetings, etc.?
- D. Can others condemn us?
 - 1. There are Christians today whose example might put us to shame who must use public transportation, travel great distances, often in poor health, to attend services of the church, or to hear the Gospel preached.
 - 2. Aged African couple who dragged around a sheet of tin to all of the meetings held by Les Maydell.
 - 3. There are even non-Christians whose example would shame some of us, who make great sacrifices for their political or religious views.
 - 4. Do they serve their misguided convictions with more zeal than we serve sound doctrine?

II. THE MEN OF NINEVEH

- A. Historical background: Jonah was sent to preach to the Ninevites.
 - 1. Jonah 1:1-2; 3:1-4

- a. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a very large, pagan, bloodthirsty, ancient city.
 - b. His message: "Yet in forty days, and Nineveh shall be destroyed"
 - 2. The men of Nineveh responded favorably and repented - Jonah 3:5-10
 - a. The people believed, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth.
 - b. The king called for national fasting and prayer for forgiveness.
 - c. God relented from what He said that He would bring on them.
- B. How the Ninevites will condemn them:
 - 1. The Ninevites heard and obeyed the sermon of a sinful, foolish, bigoted, and foreign minor prophet - Luke 11:32
 - a. Who also preached a message of damnation and doom without any signs or wonders to confirm it.
 - 2. The Jews rejected the Son of God, a sinless, wise, and compassionate Messiah - Luke 11:32
 - a. Who preached a message of grace and redemption with many signs and wonders to confirm them as Divinely authentic.
 - 3. By their past example and future testimony, the men of Nineveh will condemn those who rejected Jesus.
- C. Can they condemn us?
 - 1. If we reject the words of Jesus Christ today?
 - 2. If we refuse to repent and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, despite the many opportunities that have been given to us?
- D. Can others condemn us?
 - 1. There are Christians today whose examples might put us to shame, who responded in faith and repentance as soon as they understood God's Word.
 - 2. They will rise with the men of Nineveh to condemn us on Judgment Day, if we make excuses for not obeying the truth though we've heard it any times.
 - 3. There are even non-Christians whose examples could shame us when they quickly responded in obedience, even though it was in response to religious error.
 - 4. Do they serve their erring faith with greater fervor than we do the Lord?

Conclusion:

- A. With whom will we stand on Judgment Day?
 - 1. Will it be with those like the Queen of the South and the men of Nineveh?
 - 2. Or with those like the Jews who rejected the Savior sent to them?
 - 3. The answer depends on how we well make use of the opportunities given to us.
- B. Heb. 2:1-4