



Pastor Scott Archer 02.012.2017*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Here Comes the Judge

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

1 Corinthians 4:1–5 (ESV) — **1** This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2** Moreover, **it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.** **3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. **4** For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me.** **5** **Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.**

Central Thought: Following Jesus in the real world involves being faithful in the kingdom job God's given us to do.

- ❖ We are all servants in God's kingdom with a job to do. (4:1-2)

Romans 12:3–8 (ESV) — **3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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- ❖ Through Christ, God will judge the quality of our work. (4:3-4)

- The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25:19–21 (ESV) — **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' (See also 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

- ❖ It's not my place to judge someone else's work. (4:4-5)

Romans 14:4 (ESV) — **4** Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls...

Matthew 7:1–5 (ESV) — **1** "Judge not, that you be not judged. **2** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. **3** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Application

- ❖ Are we engaged in God's kingdom work with the gifts and jobs he's entrusted to us?
- ❖ Do we need to repent of focusing on the failures or weaknesses of others, instead of being faithful to our assigned task?

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