

ACCUSATION, INVESTIGATION, & EVALUATION JOHN 8:2-11

“Believe nothing what you hear and only half what you see!”

What do we believe? Everything? Nothing? How do we evaluate a man / woman?

I. No one is innocent!

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is **none** righteous, **no, not one**: **Romans 3:11** There is **none** that understandeth, there is **none** that seeketh after God. **Romans 3:12** They are **all** gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is **none** that doeth good, **no, not one**. **Romans 3:13** Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: **Romans 3:14** Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: **Romans 3:15** Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: **Romans 3:16** Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: **Romans 3:17** And the way of peace have they not known: **Romans 3:18** There is **no** fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 3:23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman **taken in adultery**; and when they had set her in the midst, **John 8:4** They say unto him, Master, this woman was **taken in adultery, in the very act**.

John 8:5 Now **Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?**

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his finger* wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*.

John 8:7 So when they **continued asking him**, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her**.

John 8:8 And **again** he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. **John 8:9** And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, **beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst**.

John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? **John 8:11** She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Thoughts:

- No one is innocent
- Especially is this true when sin is seen as thought, word & deed
- Even more so when we consider matters of the heart &/ socially acceptable sins!!!

Proverbs 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD **hate**: yea, seven *are* an **abomination** unto him:

Proverbs 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **Proverbs 6:18** An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **Proverbs 6:19** A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh **and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Some things we never seem to get beyond: ego, pettiness, pride, proud of our humility, proud of our godliness, proud that we didn't...!!!

II. All are, at best, relatively innocent!

III. All people(s) are a mixture

Potential for cruelty - ugliness

Potential for nobility - beauty

Psalm 23 & Psalm 51

Remember: People are **more than one thing!**

John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

Matthew 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the **innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*.**

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, **his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with **that just man**: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.**

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, **who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy,

harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **Hebrews 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.**

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself **without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

1 Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; **and in him is no sin.**

How can this help us in the real world?

Beware of all Marxist thinking / analysis:

- There are 2 groups
- There are only two groups
- The two groups are in conflict
- **One** group, the oppressors are bad / evil, **&** the **other** group, the oppressed, are good
- The oppressed can **never** become the oppressor **&** the oppressors can **never** become the oppressed

Racism: black v. white

Classism: rich v. poor

Sexism: male v. female

Imperialism: rich nations v. poor nations

“Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained. And even in the best of all hearts, there remains ... an unuprooted small corner of evil.

Since then I have come to understand the truth of all the religions of the world: They struggle with the *evil inside a human being*(inside every human being). It is impossible to expel evil from the world in its entirety, but it is possible to constrict it within each person.”

– Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956

“If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?”

– Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956

IV. Innocence or guilt then can only be about this particular crime / issues

This is very important and very difficult.

This is very difficult AND very important!

Friend - foe

Like - dislike

A past – no past

Are people guilty until proven innocent?

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots: **Isaiah 11:2** And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; **Isaiah 11:3** And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: **And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, Neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: Isaiah 11:4 **But** with righteousness shall he judge the poor, And reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Isaiah 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his reins.**

Proverbs 26:20 Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: **so** where *there is no talebearer*, the strife ceaseth. **Proverbs 26:21** *As* coals *are* to burning coals, and wood to fire; **so is** a contentious man to kindle strife. **Proverbs 26:22** The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. **Proverbs 26:23** Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a potsherd covered with silver dross. **Proverbs 26:24** He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; **Proverbs 26:25** When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart. **Proverbs 26:26** *Whose* hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the *whole* congregation. **Proverbs 26:27** Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. **Proverbs 26:28** A lying tongue hateth *those that are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down *as* a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: **I am** the LORD.

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 18:8 The words of a **talebearer** *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Proverbs 20:19 He that goeth about *as* a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

1 Timothy 5:13 And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers (φλύαροι) also and busybodies (περίεργοι), speaking things which they ought **not**.

2 Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies (περιεργαζομένους).

Proverbs 26:17 He that passeth by, *and* meddleth with strife *belonging* **not** to him, *is like* one that taketh a dog by the ears.

V. Innocence &/ guilt must be and can only be established via an evidential / evidentiary process!

Sadly, most people settle for gossip, slander, emotions, I just know (bad), I always knew that about...(worst), hindsight, assume, assumptions...!

THE PROCESS:

1. There must be witnesses /evidence

2. There must be multiple witnesses

Numbers 35:30 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of **witnesses**: but one witness shall **not** testify against any person *to cause him* to die. **Numbers 35:31** Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which *is* guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of **two witnesses**, or **three witnesses**, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; *but* at the mouth of **one witness** he shall **not** be put to death.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall **not** rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of **two witnesses**, or at the mouth of **three witnesses**, shall the matter be established.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, **that** in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

John 8:17 It is also written in your law, **that the testimony of two men is true.**

2 Corinthians 13:1 This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you. **In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.**

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive **not** an accusation, **but** before **two** or **three** witnesses.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

This can be **tricky**:

- Not multiple witnesses to a behavior

- But multiple witness to an event / act
- Also multiple kinds of witnesses (circumstantial, his / her testimony / physical evidence /...)

3. The witnesses **cannot** be one

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; *but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.*

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

4. The witnesses **must** be cross-examined and evaluated

- No anonymous witnesses
- No star chambers / show courts
- No judgment in & by the media → which is called gossip and slander

14th amendment (main part):

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which **shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.**

So always:

- No rush to judgement
- Always due process
- Beyond a reasonable doubt

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it*, it *is* folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Proverbs 18:17 *He that is* first in his own cause *seemeth* just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Deuteronomy 17:2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant,

Deuteronomy 17:3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; **Deuteronomy 17:4** And it be told thee, and thou hast

heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination

is wrought in Israel: Deuteronomy 17:5 Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, *even* that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.

There are several issues that come up here:

- Women/ children are **always** to be believed

This sound like Marxism & dis

- Women/ children don't / **never** lie
- Women/ children are courageous to come forward
- Women/ children are in a war and they must win this war!

Against whom?
 What do they win?

Thoughts:

- Every witness **must** be cross-examined
- Innocent until proven guilty is Biblical???

The burden of proof lies with the accuser not the accused.

- There are more than one or two options for **how** we listen to / evaluate evidence &/ witnesses

Possibilities ⁺		
Never Tell the truth	Usually Tell the truth except for...	Always Tell the truth

1 Kings 21:1 And it came to pass after these things, *that* **Naboth the Jezreelite** had a vineyard, which *was* in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. **1 Kings 21:2** And **Ahab** spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it *is* near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; *or*, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. **1 Kings 21:3** And Naboth said to Ahab, **The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.**

1 Kings 21:4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: **for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.** And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

1 Kings 21:5 But **Jezebel** his wife came to him, and said unto him, **Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?** **1 Kings 21:6** And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee *another* vineyard for it: and he answered, **I will not give thee my vineyard.**

1 Kings 21:7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. **1 Kings 21:8** So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

1 Kings 21:9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: **1 Kings 21:10** And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. **And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. 1 Kings 21:13** And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, *even* against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. **Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. 1 Kings 21:14** Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, **Naboth is stoned, and is dead. 1 Kings 21:15** And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. **1 Kings 21:16** And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. **1 Kings 21:17** **And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite....**

Some factors must figure into this:

Money	Power
-------	-------

Loyalty	Memory - what kind are we talking about?
Fear	Memories - that is self-serving
What actually do we remember? What happened? Or the story we tell of what happened	

5. The witnesses **must** agree ~ mas o menos

Mark 14:55 And the chief priests and all the council **sought** for witness against Jesus **to put him to death; and found none.** **Mark 14:56** For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed **not** together. **Mark 14:57** And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, **Mark 14:58** We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. **Mark 14:59** But **neither** so did their witness agree together.

2 things to watch out for:

- A. The story doesn't agree
- B. The stories agree too well

In most every scientific field we look for "converging lines of evidence!"

6. The witnesses are held to the **highest** standards

Deuteronomy 17:7 The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. **So** thou shalt put the evil away from among you.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Deuteronomy 19:16 **If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;**

Deuteronomy 19:17 **Then** both the men, between whom the controversy *is*, shall stand **before** the LORD, **before** the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; **Deuteronomy 19:18** And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, **if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;** **Deuteronomy 19:19** **Then** shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: **so** shalt thou put the evil away from among you. **Deuteronomy 19:20** **And** those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

Acts 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

Acts 7:58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. **Acts 7:59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

John 8:4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. **John 8:5** Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? **John 8:6** This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not.* **John 8:7** So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

Deuteronomy 13:9 But thou shalt surely kill him; **thine hand shall be first** upon him to put him to death, **and afterwards the hand of all the people.**

7. The witnesses &/ evidence might be insufficient to establish guilt / innocence – on **this** side of this history!

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. **1 Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. **1 Corinthians 4:3** But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged (ὕφ' ὑμῶν ἀνακριθῶ) of you, or of man's judgment (ἢ ὑπὸ ἀνθρωπίνης ἡμέρας) not mine own self. **1 Corinthians 4:4** For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth (ὁ δὲ ἀνακρίνων) me is the Lord. **1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge (κρίνετε) nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke **before all**, that others also may fear.

1 Timothy 5:24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. **1 Timothy 5:25** Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

Deuteronomy 17:8 If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; **Deuteronomy 17:9** And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:

Deuteronomy 17:10 And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: **Deuteronomy 17:11** According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left.

Proverbs 26:27 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.