

# W234AW

## A FREE Bi-Monthly Publication of WDNX 89.1 FM & W234AW 94.7

Steve Dickman—Publisher Sheri Durbin—Editor  
3575 Lonesome Pine Road, on the campus of Harbert Hills Academy  
Savannah, TN 38372

Volume 11 Issue 3/4

6-9/09

(731) 925-9236

Serving the Lord in portions of  
NE MS, NW AL and Middle &  
West TN with 100,000 watts

This year's Sharathon is scheduled for October 27-29.

There are so many things to do before then. Much prayer is needed so that everything is planned and directed by God's will and desire for us, rather than any goals we may imagine. That's where you can begin helping right now. Pray at every opportunity.

We must decide what to call this year's Sharathon, a name that will bless as it is spoken. Many publishers and program providers must be contacted so gifts will be available for everyone. When I say everyone, that means everyone that calls whether they are able to make a donation or not. Volunteers need to be trained and scheduled. That's another way you can help—by volunteering. Arrangements must be made to feed everyone, so you might consider bringing a healthy snack. And that's just the beginning.

I remember working 6-8 weeks before my first Sharathon, the exhausting fun of the actual days of Sharathon, and my mistake (after it was over) in thinking, "Now I can relax a bit and take a rest." Wrong! There was a lot to do after. And I always fear I'm leaving something undone.

We've learned how to do some things better, and are still learning in many areas. So, your suggestions could be helpful as well.

Sharathon is a time of great blessing. Getting to talk with listeners as they call or stop by to visit is one of my most favorite parts of this job.

Every one of us is constantly bombarded with requests for donations from so many worthy causes. And, being a confessed tightwad, I have a hard time spending or asking for money. I don't like wasting mine and I certainly wouldn't want you to waste yours.

That's why I should boldly ask you to support the Lord's work as you are able! Because it is never a waste to invest in His kingdom. Be prayerful about what God would have you do this year. God is good, His Word (even by way of WDNX) does not return to Him void, and His work will be finished.

So, I ask you, "What will you do?" Will you be a part of the solution? You can begin by praying and seeking wisdom and direction from the Lord. God has promised to provide wisdom and send the Holy Spirit, whenever we ask. Volunteer, commit to pray at intervals throughout the Sharathon, take up a collection at work or church, bring a

October 27-29. Duties may include (but are not be limited to) answering phones, filling in forms, choosing gifts to send, you might 'run the board' or help us out on the air. There will also be a lot of waiting, hurrying, and praying. Not to mention FUN! Training is available. For more information contact Sheri at 888-676-9369.

***How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without WDNX?***

My personal paraphrase of  
Romans 10:14. sheri

***Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm. For evil doers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit***

# Open Mic

## ***Faith, Not Feeling***

**Feelings are not a good test of your spiritual life—God’s Word is.**

By Ellen G. White

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.” Some conscientious souls on reading this immediately begin to criticize their every feeling and emotion. But this is not correct self-examination. It is not the petty feelings and emotions that are to be examined. The life, the character, is to be measured by the only standard of character, God’s holy law. The fruit testifies to the character of the tree. Our works, not our feelings, bear witness of us.

The feelings, whether encouraging or discouraging, should not be made the test of the spiritual condition. By God’s Word we are to determine our true standing before Him. Many are bewildered on this point. When they are happy and joyous, they think that they are accepted by God. When a change comes, and they feel depressed, they think that God has forsaken them.

### **Receiving God’s Mercy**

God does not look with favor upon those self-confident ones who loudly exclaim, “I am sanctified, I am holy, I am sinless.” These are Pharisees who have no foundation for their assertion. Those who, because of their sense of utter unworthiness, dare scarcely lift up their eyes to heaven, are nearer to God than those who claim so much piety. They are represented by the publican, who, with his head on his breast, prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner,” and went to his house justified, rather than the self-righteous Pharisee.

But God does not desire us to go through life with a distrust of Him. We owe our Heavenly Father a more generous view of His goodness than is accorded to Him by our manifest distrust of His love. We have an evidence of His love—an evidence which amazes angels and is far beyond the comprehension of the wisest of human beings. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” While we were yet sinners, God gave His Son to die for us. Can we doubt His goodness?

### **Jesus Makes the Difference**

Behold Christ. Dwell upon His love and mercy. This will fill the soul with abhorrence for all that is sinful, and will inspire it with an intense desire for the righteousness of Christ. The more clearly we see the Saviour, the more clearly shall we discern our defects of character. Confess your sins to Christ, and with true contrition of soul co-operate with Him by putting these sins away. Believe that they are pardoned. The promise is positive, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our

sins

and

faith

in

the

Word.

They

have

no

faith

that

He

will

do

as

He

has

said.

Many

who

long

to

see

others

resting in the pardoning love of Christ do not rest in it themselves. But how can they possibly lead others to show simple, child-like faith in the Heavenly Father when they measure His love by their feelings?

Let us trust God’s Word implicitly, remembering that we are His sons and daughters. Let us train ourselves to believe His Word. We hurt the heart of Christ by doubting, when He has given us such evidences of His love. He laid down His life to save us. He says to us: “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

Do you believe that He will do as He has said? Then, after you have complied with the conditions, carry no longer the burden of your sin. Let it roll upon the Saviour. Trust yourself with Him.

*This article is excerpted from one that first appeared in the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, now the Adventist Review, May 21, 1908. Seventh-day Adventists believe that [Ellen G. White](#) exercised the biblical gift of prophecy during more than 70 years of public ministry. Reprinted with permission from the June 2009 Adventist World.*

If you would like more information on Ellen White you can visit a website set up by Doug Batchelor and Amazing Facts. That is [ellengwhitetruth.com](http://ellengwhitetruth.com) or give me a call at the station. Upon close and prayerful examination I think you will agree with me, that her insight must have been inspired. sheri

# Judging

based on Matthew 7: 1-5

Pastor Jerry Arnold (Heard weekends on the program—"Wellspring", on WDNX. Used here by his permission.)

"Father in Heaven, please bless the sermon. We pray that it will be You that teaches us, and we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen."

In studying for the sermon this week, I ran across a story that fits in perfectly as an introduction. So I am going to share it with you. There was a man. He was a handsome man. He was a good man, kind, and he could get a date, but he could never keep a girlfriend.

He had a friend that was concerned about it, so his friend said, "What's up with that? How come you can never keep a girlfriend?"

He said, "Well, the same thing happens every time I meet a girl, we start to get friendly, we start to fall for each other, it's getting more serious and I take her home to meet my parents. But my mother has a critical spirit. She finds fault in people and things, and whatever. She'd always say, "Nah, nah, nah, there is something wrong." Every time I bring a woman home, she is not good enough, mom finds fault in her, and runs her off."

Well his friend says, "I know how to cure that. Find a woman just like your mother."

So he thought, "Well, okay." He hunts all around and he finds the most critical woman he can find. She finds fault with everything, she is just like his mother. So, they date for a while and then he takes her home. Couple of weeks later he runs into his friend. His friend asks, "Hey, how is it going?" He said, "Oh, it's great. I took her home and Mother loves her. But Dad can't stand her."

It's hard to live with, or to be around someone who has a critical spirit. I'd like to study that with you today. Matthew 7:1-5. I am using the New King James Version. Jesus said, "Judge not that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'let me remove the speck out of your eye' and you look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then," catch this, "you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye."

Jesus says, "Judge not!" Do you know that that is a phrase that is often used? And it's often used when someone is confronted about something that is going on in their life that is unethical or immoral. So you confront that person, and they say, "Jt ' ' "

**"But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, for it is written:**

Hc  
to judge. Look at verse 6. He says, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before swine lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you in pieces." Now Jesus is not talking about animals. He is talking about people with certain characteristics and some type of judgment has to be made whether or not you minister to them the way that He is talking about there. In 7:15 and 16 He also says, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?"

Jesus warns us, “Beware of the false prophets! You’ll have to make some judgment calls,” He is saying. There will be dogs, and there will be pigs, there will be false prophets; and after weighing the evidence and testing the premises, you must discern whether they are right or whether they are wrong. He is not condemning judgment in that sense. In fact, He wants us to have it. The word that is used here in Matthew regarding ‘judge not’ is speaking about the habit of a censorious, sharp, unjust and unfair criticism. In fact, from this very Greek word, we get the English word, “critic.” It is a warning against self-righteous severity. It is not about telling Christians they should be neutral on moral issues. We are not to be the judge. Jesus says, “Judge not!”

Now, it’s interesting when we look at verse 1, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” It’s a principle, it’s a truth. If you have a judgmental spirit people will judge you with the harshness that you judge other people. It’s just natural, it happens. But God is also warning us that He will do it as well. So not only do we face a judgment with mankind, but we face a judgment with God. In verse 2 it says, “For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” This principle, how you measure out it’s going to be measured back to you. It’s that old saying, “What goes around comes around.”

Now Jesus gives a parable, verses 3-5. How can you be critical of somebody who has a tiny piece of sawdust in their eye when you have the main beam of a house in yours? The contrast is stunning.

It’s important to understand what Jesus is saying, number one, “The thing that’s bothering you is a small thing. It’s just a speck, a small thing in comparison to the large thing you have in your own life. In essence, He is saying, you’ve got enough problems on your own. Don’t worry about other people.”

Now Jesus, interestingly enough, does not say here why it is that people judge. He doesn’t say, “Look, I know you were born to lousy parents and you had a lousy childhood, and consequently you are the way you are because of that.” He doesn’t say, “Look, I know you were picked-on on the playground, in the community. Or at church or at work. I know you were, and I understand why you do it.” He doesn’t say, “I know that you have overwhelming feelings of insecurity, and somehow you feel stronger or better when you find fault in others, and you think you are better than them. I understand all that.” Jesus does not say any of that.

Jesus simply says, “Don’t do it.” Now that’s good news because that means, no matter what wounds have been inflicted upon us in life, we through Christ, can have victory over judging other people. Pretty much, that’s what we get from Matthew 7:1-5. But it’s spoken of by Luke as well. And Luke adds some information that is going to take us to another level. You see, the whole concept of judging somebody who is not doing it the way we would do it, the idea of being censorious or critical is so foreign to God that He is saying His people won’t participate in it. And if there is going to be any judging, that is the work of God. Okay?

But what about Luke chapter 6? Begin with the verse 37. Here is how Luke has Jesus saying it: “Judge not and you shall not be judged. Condemn not and you shall not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.” Luke has Jesus saying this in the context of forgiveness, of being kind towards somebody else. That’s how you are supposed to be. Don’t judge, but have a kindly disposition towards people. Don’t condemn them, be forgiving and you will be forgiven. He goes on, verse 38: “Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use it will be measured back to you.”

***‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.’***

N  
d  
g  
N

talking about. This text is talking about giving, a judgmental attitude and reflection towards somebody or being forgiving towards them. If you are forgiving towards them, it comes back to you. And God Himself will be forgiving towards you.

Look at verse 39, “And Jesus spoke a parable to them, ‘Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?’” Now what’s that got to do with this? It seems so unrelated and it even gets worse in verse 40. He says, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.” So now we’ve got the blind leading the blind and we’ve got a teacher. What’s this all about? Remember what the plank does when it’s in your eye? You have to remove it in order to see clearly. If you can’t see clearly, you are somewhat blinded in your sight. Do you understand that? Now let’s look at this and how it intertwines together. “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?” This is what Jesus is saying -- You have teachers in your life. You have people that God has placed in your life to help you along this journey from here to heaven. You are a disciple.

But, the natural tendency of the human heart is to be critical. It just the way we are. It’s the way I am, okay, I said it. We are naturally critical! And we’ve all had that teacher that just really set our sails full of wind, and we just went across seas we never knew we could go. And yet, we’ve all had those teachers that just, “Oh, get me out of this class! Please, get me out of this class; I can’t stand that person!” Well, often times because of a critical spirit we have a tendency to say, “I could teach better than this person or they are not good here, or they are not good there.” And we who are the student, kind of usurp the position of teacher. We are the ones who are being taught, and we say that the teacher is blind. Consequently, we are the one that’s blind, now trying to lead the blind. That’s what Jesus is talking about.

I want to ask you a question. Have you ever tried to lead God? Have you ever, as some call it, been ahead of the Lord? He’s been too slow, He’s been silent, uncaring, so you had to solve the problem yourself? Jesus is saying those of us who have a big problem, run ahead of the One who can solve that problem. And we are literally the blind, leading whom we consider to be blind, and God is never blind.

In the spiritual realm, many times, doubts are going to come our way. People in our families are going to be sick and not get well. But yet, they get well in someone else’s family. There will be injustices that will come to us. There will be loss of money or reputation. And it will all be totally unfair. We can pray about it, and ask God to change it, but apparently He has chosen not to. In those circumstances, those times of doubt, confusion, and pain we begin to question God. We are the student, but we are questioning the Teacher.

And God doesn’t cast us off when we question, please understand that. But there is a process that sets in that is very dangerous. And that is this -- that in our questioning, we may easily transition to being critical of God. And when we become critical of God, we set ourselves up as a judge of God. And God is the Judge, friends. Nobody is higher than God. But when we become critical of God or critical of His ways, we are establishing ourselves as a judge above God. We are blind. And when we do that, we are in a very dangerous situation.

Let me remind you of a story from the Bible. The man’s name was Job. As you know, he was a wealthy man and he served God. Satan is in the presence of God. God says, “Have you seen my servant Job? He is faithful in all that he does. He is faithful to Me.”

Satan scoffs and says, “Why not? You built a hedge around him. Everything he does, You bless! Let me at him, and I’ll get him to turn from serving you.” So God says, “Okay, but you can’t touch him.”

Swiftly, one after another, Job lost his sons and daughters, his livestock and servants, it’s all gone. Job’s wife says, “Why don’t you curse God and die!”

Job says, “No, naked I came into the world, and naked I’ll go out. Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

Satan get t **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**  
*Therefore let us not judge one another anymore,*  
Satan

painful boils, so painful that he takes broken pieces of pottery to scrape the pus off of his body. He's in sackcloth and ashes. He has three friends that show up. They are so struck by the pain of this man that they just sit next to him for one week not saying a word. Then the discussion about God begins. These three men began to tell Job that he must have sin in his life or God would not be doing this to him. In the process Job begins to question God. He begins to doubt God, who wouldn't? He begins to be upset with God. We can all relate. Now he never stops talking to God, and that's praise worthy.

When you come to the end of the book, Job chapter 38 is stunning. God shows up. Job 38:1, "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind. 'Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man, I will question you, and you will answer Me.'"

You see, when God shows up, He asks the questions. So Job listens to questions, and God asks things like: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Where were you when it all came together..." and a long list of things that it would be impossible for men to be involved in.

We come to chapter 40 after that long list of questions that God has for Job. Verse 1, "Moreover the Lord answered Job and said, 'Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it.'"

Notice what happens. Job answers in verse 4, "'Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.'" Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, 'Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you and you shall answer Me: Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His? Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor and array yourself with glory and beauty. Disperse the rage of your wrath. Look on everyone who is proud and humble him. Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low. Tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together, bind their faces in hidden darkness. Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you.'

If you can do all these things, then you can save yourself. Wow! Do you realize that when Jesus says, "Judge not that you be not judged," He is talking in the context of His disciples being there, and a whole group of listeners and the religious leaders of the day? The religious leaders of the day had made a living out of criticizing other people. And in the process of criticizing other people they were taking on the role of God – so much so that when God came and walked among them, they did not accept Him. They rejected Him. They questioned Him, thought themselves more righteous than Him. And in the process, all along, were thinking they could save themselves.

Now friends, having a critical spirit is bad on one level. That is, you are going to be hard to live with. And we may treat you kindly. Others may treat me kindly if I am expressing a critical spirit. But, ultimately if we have a critical spirit we lose the respect of those around us. They may even have to pray for God to put love in their hearts for those of us who are critical.

And if we are critical of one another, we can be critical of God. In so doing, we can actually get to the point where we think we can even save ourselves. In fact, I will guarantee you, the most critical people I know in the realm of religion actually believe what they are doing saves them. That's why they are critical of other people.

Today, two things: one, we are all struggling with criticizing. We all need forgiveness. And we all can have victory in that. And number two: salvation is a gift from God. We can never earn it. We can never have any righteousness of our own. We can never do anything where we can stand before God and say, "See! Isn't my splendor like Yours? Isn't my strength like Yours? Haven't I proved to You that I am just as holy as You are?"

It will never, ever happen. It cannot happen! Salvation is a gift given to us by Jesus Christ when we accept Him as our Savior. Today, my question for you is, "Would you like to tell God you want forgiveness for having a critical spirit and you want victory over it? And would you like to tell God you want Jesus to be your Savior?"

~~"Father in Heaven, we ask that You will forgive us through Christ. We pray that You will save us through Christ, and that~~

Y

***but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause  
to fall in our brother's way." Romans 14:10-13 NKJV***

***"The soul that gives  
thanks can find  
comfort in everything,  
the soul that complains  
can find comfort in  
nothing."***

*Hannah Whitall Smith*

*"Do all things without  
murmuring and disputing, that  
you may become blameless and  
harmless, children of God without  
fault in the midst of a crooked  
and perverse generation, among  
whom you shine as lights in the  
world.*

*Philippians 2:14, 15 NKJV*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Programs Comments or Prayer Requests

## When Is The Best Time To Begin

### Teaching Your Child? Pastor Duwayne Pounds

How soon should a parent begin teaching their child about Jesus? I have read in a number of books that the importance of the first five years of a child's life cannot be overestimated. It is during those years that the foundation is laid for a child's language ability, character, ethics, morality, and value systems.

I am afraid many parents underestimate their child's capacity for learning during their early period. Perhaps due to their erratic behavior, we think they are not paying attention or listening or even care what is happening around them. The child might even appear to be off in his/her little world oblivious to reality. On the contrary, Dr. James Dobson states that what a child learns in the first five years will never be matched in any other five year period as long as that person lives.

The famous psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud would agree. A mother asked Dr. Freud, "How early should I begin the education of my child?" Freud asked, "When will your child be born?" The woman answered, "Why he is already five years old!" Freud responded, "My goodness, woman, don't stand there talking to me – hurry home! You have already wasted the five best years!"

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22: 6.

(from OCPC Newsletter, used with permission.)

## Books Reviewed...

I've read quite a few books since we visited last in this newsletter. Most for my personal edification which has been a huge blessing. But at this time I'll just tell you about two that may be of interest to you.

First is "Student's Guide to the Bible" by Stephen M. Miller and published by Barbour Publishing. Mr. Miller is known for his best selling "Who's Who & Where's Where in the Bible. This softcover book has full color illustrations on almost every page. It also provides Biblical answers for questions like 'What kind of person should I date?' 'Is it okay to get tattoos?' and 'How can three Gods be One?' It also has a quick 'tour of the Bible' spending two pages highlighting each book as well as a timeline and two top 50 lists. Excellent for any student, no matter their age.

Have I told you about "Hooked on Unhappiness— Breaking the cycle of discontent", by Carol Cannon MA, CADC? It's published by Pacific Press and explains the problem—some people are *addicted to misery!* That was a surprise, so this book really opened my eyes. She bravely shares much from personal experience as a recovering Workaholic Worrywart. She shares about the success of the Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Steps Program and how it's been adapted for many other problem areas. The book's 'take-away' is, There is Hope.

**"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.**

**If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:1, 3, 11-13**