

Friendship Deeds, From A-Z



Judge? **NOT!**

Matthew 7:1-2

“Do not judge others. Then you will not be judged. You will be judged in the same way you judge others. You will be measured in the same way you measure others.”

Imagine a courtroom with a huge audience. There’s a person on trial—that someone, that wrongdoer, that fill in the blank person who needs to learn his lesson. Then comes your shining moment: You walk in through a doorway behind the judge’s chair with a beautiful black robe on....you hear an official proclaim with a loud, deep voice, “All, rise! The honorable _____ (*put your name here*) is now presiding...wait! You’re the judge! How cool is that! Now’s the time to take the person on trial and bring out all his faults and sins to the crowd that watches eagerly with curiosity. That’s it! That’s the end! “Guilty as charged,” you say! This person has learned his lesson!

Just as you’re ready to exit with your head up high, the court officer walks up to you and asks for your robe. You say, “*Don’t be ridiculous...it’s my robe. I’m the judge.*” The court officer says, “*Your time is up. It’s now your turn to be judged.*” Your face turns red and a chill goes through your spine as you hand over your robe and take the oath to “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God.”

Why does the Bible tell you not to judge others? Because judges lead to juries, that’s why. It may feel right to decide what another person is doing or not doing that they should or shouldn’t be, but it’s not. The Bible warns us that as much as we do this, it will be returned to us. God is the One who sits on the Throne as Judge, and He is the only One who has been given the permission to do so. *James 4:12 says, “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge...but you, who are you to judge your neighbor?”* Well, that’s a pretty clear verdict, isn’t it?

Bear in mind that while you shouldn’t judge another person and say that they are “bad” or “sinful,” it *doesn’t* mean that you can’t look at their actions and decide in your own mind whether what they are doing is what YOU should be doing or not. Those are the things you pray about and take to your parents for discussion with them. Letting God be the judge of others frees you up to be a joy to others—take off your robe today!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. What does it mean to “judge” someone?**
- 2. What is the difference between judging someone and deciding right from wrong?**
- 3. Where do we go for answers about holy living? Can we still tell others what the Bible says without judging them?**

What’s next on the list? “What list?” you ask! Well, the one that’s at “K”’s place...in order, by task.