

# The Religious Leaders

by K.P. Yohannan

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*Jesus teaches us to show mercy and forgiveness, rather than judgment and condemnation, even when we are rejected or mistreated.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:1, Luke 9:55, John 8:11

**Topics:** "Judgment vs. Mercy", "Compassion in Christianity"

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## Description

K.P. Yohannan discusses the reaction of James and John when the Samaritans rejected Jesus, highlighting the disciples' desire for judgment rather than compassion. He emphasizes that even devoted followers of Christ can fall into a judgmental spirit when faced with rejection or mistreatment. Yohannan points out that Jesus did not condemn those who were marginalized or sinful, instead offering grace and forgiveness. The sermon serves as a reminder for believers to reflect on their own attitudes towards others and to embody the love and mercy that Jesus demonstrated. Ultimately, it challenges the church to avoid a spirit of condemnation and to embrace a heart of compassion.

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## Transcript

James and John were furious. These Samaritans had the gall to close their village to Jesus just because He was traveling to Jerusalem. Instead of being overwhelmed with gratitude that the Jewish Messiah would even set foot on their soil, they closed their doors.

Convinced that these heathens didn't deserve another breath, the two disciples volunteered to call fire down from heaven, like Elijah, and wipe them out. Jesus rebuked them immediately with these words: "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of" (Luke 9:55).

Jesus' closest followers reverted to serious carnality just days before His crucifixion. This incident tells us something. In our own selves, when we are rejected or mistreated, we are capable of forgetting all the spiritual things we have learned and responding with judgment and retaliation just like the rest of mankind.

What happens to us that we so quickly look down on others? Along with Jesus' disciples, we as believers sometimes feel we are qualified and even called to judge others because we think we know the laws of God and are zealous for righteousness.

But Jesus didn't judge those Samaritans who rejected Him. Neither did He judge the prostitutes, sinners and tax collectors who came to listen to His sermons.

The religious leaders brought Jesus a woman caught in adultery, convinced they had Him trapped. He was a Jew. He knew the Law of Moses. The stones were ready--He would have to pronounce the death penalty over her. But when He challenged those who were without sin to cast the first stone, one by one they left, each convicted by his own failures.

In the end, Jesus, the one and only One who could have passed judgment over her, sent her away with the words, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11).

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/kp-yohannan/the-religious-leaders/>

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