**HERE COMES THE JUDGE**

***Watching For Christ’s Return (#5)***

In 1968 a comedian and song writer named Dewey “Pigmeat” Markham released a song called “*Here Come The Judge*.” It became a famous slogan for the next decade as comedians such as Sammy Davis, Jr. and Flip Wilson used it in their routines. Davis appeared regularly on the TV show *Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In* by playing a slap-stick role as a judge. Wilson used it repeatedly in his TV and Las Vegas shows to get laughs. They often portrayed judges as self-serving and less than honorable people who were willing to take bribes for favors. It made the audience roar with laughter.

The role of a judge ought to be a highly respected profession that comes by applying the law in a fair and impartial way. When we think of a judge we ought to think of a very serious-minded and even-tempered person who will carefully and impartially weigh all the evidence and render a verdict without thought of a person’s age, gender, faith, or skin color. It is no laughing matter to be called a judge.

At the United States Supreme Court building in Washington D.C. there sits two imposing statues created by sculptor James Earle Fraser. On the left side of the entrance sits a woman called *Contemplation of Justice*. On the right side sits a man called *Guardian of Law*. Over the entrance is inscribed in stone the words “*Equal Justice Under Law*.” The famous image of a blindfolded Lady Justice holding a balance scale is found in the building, as well as upon most federal courthouses throughout America. Carved into the top of the building are 17 famous judges in history, with Moses holding the Ten Commandments in the very center.

When God wrote the Law of Moses He gave special rules for all judges to seriously take to heart.
“*You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.* *You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous*.” - Deuteronomy 16:18-19
“*You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor*.” - Leviticus 19:15

Then, when Christ came to write a new law He gave special notice to how justice is to be served without any prejudice (i.e. pre-judge is the concept behind that word). First He tells us how God judges men, then He tells us how we should judge our fellow man:
“Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” - Acts 10:34-35
*“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”* – Jn. 7:24
*“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*” – Matt. 7:1-2

Do you realize that Paul declared that “*saints will judge the world*” and that we will even “*judge angels*”? (I Cor. 6:2-3). That is a position appointed by God that is far higher than sitting as a justice on the Supreme Court! No Senate Judiciary Committee will “advise and consent” to God as to whether we will sit as judges. We will not be sitting on a judge’s bench deciding cases for eternity, but by our lives as obedient Christians God will use us as Exhibit A in judgment of angels and men (study Matt. 25:31-46 as a possible criteria Christ will use us as judges on Judgment Day).

This leads to my purpose in asking you to take seriously the role of Christ as *Chief Justice Of The Supreme Court* when He returns in judgment. Peter tells us that scoffers have always been on earth, mocking those who warn of a coming judgment. At their own peril they foolishly forget that God judged he world in Noah’s day, and continue to deny He has “*reserved for fire until* ***the day of judgment*** *and perdition of ungodly men*” (2 Pet. 3:4-7). While they mock Christ with “here come da judge, here come da judge” as if it’s some comedy routine, one day they will mock no more. Christ has already revealed what they will be saying on that fateful day:

*“And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”* - Rev. 6:15-17

I try to imagine Paul standing with a theatre full of philosophers as he preached on Mars Hill to the academic elite of Athens. Luke says, *“And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked”* (Ac 17:32). What was it they mocked? Luke tells us: *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because* ***He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world*** *in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”* - Acts 17:30-31

We watch and wait for Christ to return and right all wrongs. In our world where justice seems so far removed from reality we can take consolation in the fact that Jesus is coming again and will be both Judge and Jury. When He came to earth the first time it was not to sit in judgment, but to become man’s savior (Jn. 12:47). But when He comes again He will come as Judge, and the Law He will use to judge fairly is the New Testament. It will be no laughing matter as He opens the Bible and says, *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”* – John 12:48

On that day I can almost hear Michael the archangel calling the court into session and as Jesus approaches the bench, “All rise!” Suddenly and without warning there is an immediate reshuffling of all humans who have ever lived into two groups. One group stands on His right, the other on His left. He first passes judgment on Group A, “*Well done, good and faithful servant, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt. 25:21,34).He then turns to Group B and declares, “*I never knew you, depart from Me, all you who were lawless into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*” (Matt. 7:23; 25:30,41).

Here comes the Judge. I pray you are not laughing, but instead are seriously waiting. Are you ready for the judgment day? With love, Rick