

Caution to the Wind

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8

#13 in our series from Ecclesiastes

January 29, 2011

Peter Hiatt

All images by Peter Hiatt unless otherwise credited.

Prayer

Lord God, you are holy. That means you're pretty different from us most of the time so we ask that you would send your Holy Spirit to help us trust your nature, yourself, your judgment, your will, your word. We pray it in Jesus' name, Amen.

Message

This is our twelfth message from Solomon's book of Ecclesiastes . . . our thirteenth if you count Christmas Eve.

Last time,

- We read about a poor wise man that saved a city under siege.
- We realized that we are a city under siege—locked down in fear terrified of death.

We are Jerusalem and Jesus is Wisdom.

He saves us in a way that seems so non-strategic . . . and entirely unsafe.

In a city under siege, bread is life, and *fear* tells us to hang on to it. But *Wisdom* tells us, "*Cast your bread on the waters.*" Jesus is the Bread of Life, who casts Himself upon the waters on a tree in a garden—He loses His life and finds it.

The Life is in the blood and the Spirit (that is, the breath) is Life.

The Life flows from the throne, like blood from a heart; it circulate through the entire body and returns to God as praise.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-8

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. He who observes the wind [ruakh: spirit, breath] will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

As you do not know the way the spirit [ruakh] comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who

*makes [literally, “does”] everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good. Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity [hebel: vapor, breath].*¹

“All that comes” is *hebel* and all that is subject to time.

My past has come.

My future will come. But what about this present moment?

Theologians and philosophers point out that the present moment, the now, is the point at which time touches eternity. “All that comes” is all that is subject to time.

Physicists say that Light is not subject to time, but time is subject to Light. In other words Light is eternal...²

Well anyway, Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity [hebel]. Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment [ha mishpat: “the Judgment”].

He didn’t say, “Judgment will come,” but “God will bring you into ‘the judgment.’”

Maybe “the Judgment” is eternal and all things are relative to ‘the judgment.’

But know that for all these things God will bring you into [the] judgment. Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity [hebel].

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in

¹ That means we don’t know whether or not life begins at conception. But we do know that it begins before birth.

² A photon of light doesn’t experience the passage of time, but all things exist in an eternal now.

them”; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man [ha adam: “the Adam”] is going to his eternal home,

He didn’t say, “Some of Adam is going to one very nice eternal home”
And some of Adam is going to another very not nice eternal home.”

[ha adam: “the Adam”] is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit [ruwach] returns to God who gave it.

God does not endlessly torture His own breath—Spirit—His Breath.
And if you don’t have His breath, you are only dust.
The Bible leaves no room for a doctrine of endless conscious torment

The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit [ruakh,] returns to God who gave it. Vanity [hebel] of vanities [hebelim], says the preacher; all is vanity [hebel].

Remember,
God breathed His breath into dust, and Adam became a living soul.
God breathed into Adam . . .
And Adam (that is mankind) held his breath.

- Just like a terrified person holds his breath.
- Just like a city under siege hangs on to its bread.
- Just like all men “strive after the wind, the *ruakh*.”

The Adam holds the breath... until Christ surrenders the breath—His Spirit—on the tree in the Garden, that we call the cross.³

As we said, He cast his bread on the waters and saved the city.

³ Solomon says we all must surrender it—indeed, hanging on to it is vanity and death. We all must surrender the spirit...

- And Jesus, the *eschatos* Adam, is the first Adam that did.
- Jesus is firstborn of all creation and firstborn from the dead.
- He expired and was inspired, by God.

He lost his life and found it.

As John saw in Revelation 5, the Life flows from the throne and to all creation, returning to God as praise.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8 paints an amazing picture I long for you to see, and if you ask, "Well what does it mean to me?" Well, I think Solomon has been telling us . . . and yet, for some reason, we struggle to believe!

Look again at what he said:

11:1 *"Cast your bread upon the waters..."*

v. 2 *"Give a portion to seven, or even to eight..."*

v. 3-5 *"Sow your seed and don't withhold your hand."*

v. 7-8 *"Enjoy the light. Rejoice in it, in all your time."*

"Don't save your life, but lose it."

Expire, so you can be inspired.

Throw caution to the Wind!

Ecclesiastes 12:9 Rejoice [this is a command]...

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes.⁴

Next line . . .

But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment the judgment.

WOW! Talk about double speak: it's like your mother saying, "Have a

⁴ Solomon certainly did that didn't he?

And because he did that, and seems to recommend that, ancient rabbis really struggled with Ecclesiastes...

In Numbers 15, through Moses, God tells the Israelites to make tassels to remind them of the law—the knowledge of Good and evil—lest they follow after their "own heart" and "own eyes" which they were inclined "to whore after." It's as if our desires turn us into whores, but knowing the law keeps those whoring desires in check.

And sometimes, law does keep desires in check...

But it is powerless to change them.

Well Solomon doesn't say, "Don't walk in the ways of your heart and eyes"

He says, "Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes"

"Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes"

wonderful time at the party... but remember I have cameras installed in every room... enjoy the party!"

It's like the church saying:

- "Good News: Christ has set you free! . . . But remember that Judgment will come...Enjoy the party."
- "Good News: His mercies never come to an end! . . . But remember, judgment will come and His mercies never come to an end... Enjoy the party."
- "Good News: God is love and love does not fail! ...But remember God is also just and that means judgment will come and love will fail... Enjoy the party."
- "Good News: you are forgiven! ...Enjoy the party by forgiving your neighbor, loving your enemies, and having mercy on all... because judgment will come... And God will not have mercy on all, and not love his enemies nor forgive them, but torture them forever without end."
- "Good News: The Lamb of God has taken away the sin of the world! ...EXCEPT He *hasn't*... for judgment will come and he will endlessly torture people for their sins..."
- "Good News: Preach the Good News or he will endlessly torture you as well."

That doesn't sound like Good News . . .
It sounds like, "The Elf on the Shelf."

Have you seen little Elf on the Shelf kits? They've been hugely popular for the last twelve years since they came out. They contain a small Elf and a book.

You set the elf on a shelf, where your kids can't touch it . . .Then read the book, which explains that the elf is watching you and returning to the North Pole to tell Santa everything you've done, so he can judge you either naughty or nice and give you your just deserts.

Merry Christmas! Ho Ho Ho

Be good and get presents... Ho Ho Ho.

That's what God kept saying to Israel... Ho Ho Ho

"You don't love me, but only my presents. You're playing the Ho Ho Ho"

(Singing) "God is watching us. God is watching us. God is watching us... from a distance."

[Image of Jesus peeking around the corner]

Is Jesus the Elf on the Shelf?

[Image of Jesus peeking around the corner with the caption "Whatcha doin?"]

How does that make you feel?

[Image of a billboard that reads "Jesus is watching you" right next to an adult video shop]

Is this what leads us to repentance... Anxiety?

Are we saved from God's Judgment by anxiety?

The Pharisees certainly seemed to think so...⁵

They thought fear and the knowledge of good and evil would save them.

They thought flesh and an abundance of laws were salvation.

SO they were extremely careful to do them all—

In fact they made thousands more . . . just out of caution.

I think that's why they secretly hated Jesus and His Father...

They seem so *incautious*... have you ever thought about that?

Scripture says, "*Don't be drunk with wine*" . . . then Jesus makes wine at a wedding banquet and even turns it into a sacrament.

That's not safe! He should've used juice like a good Presbyterian.

Jesus says, "*Don't look on a woman with lust*" . . . and yet God made women . . . naked and said, "*Be fruitful and multiply.*"

That's not safe! So good Christians outlaw wine and kisses . . . and even communion.

God said, "*Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*"

But He said it to two naked people in a garden with an evil talking snake and an obvious inability to know whether or not His Word was good or evil.

That is so profoundly not safe!

Doesn't God want us to be safe? . . . Is He trying to get us killed?

Doesn't God want us to save ourselves from His Judgment with Anxiety?

Doesn't God want us to make ourselves in His own image through neurosis and repression?

The Pharisees thought He did.

And the Church seems to think He does.

- So she gives us more laws, and principles, and strategies, which she refers

⁵ Jesus said that they "made their tassels long."

- to as wisdom.
- She gives us more *“knowledge of good and evil,”*
With which we can justify ourselves;
Build a protective bubble around ourselves keeping us safe from evil,
And therefore safe from the judgment of God.

Kinda like this . . .

Jimmy the Bubble Boy Clip #1

JIMMY: My first memories are kind of hazy. All I remember is a place with white walls, bright lights, and a gigantic bird. I was there because I was born with no Immunities. A single germ could kill me. When I was four, my mom took me home, beautiful Palmdale, California. Mom helped me make friends right away. [Jimmy’s family pulls up to their new neighborhood in the car. Jimmy is pulled out of the car in a protective bubble. Neighborhood children are playing with a ball right near the car and their ball bounces towards Jimmy in his bubble. Jimmy’s mom catches the ball, pops it with a knife, and hands it back to the children. The family then enters their home.] Our house was enormous like a castle, and for the first time I felt completely free. [Jimmy’s mom slams the door behind them putting her body across the door as a protective shield and exhales in relief.]

JIMMY’S MOTHER: There, now you’re safe from that evil, filthy world.

JIMMY: I had a big room with my own bed, lots of toys and two pairs of retractable arms.

JIMMY’S MOTHER: And the price climbed to the top of the tower and said, ‘Come with me and we’ll live happily ever after.’ And the princess left her plastic bubble and died. The end. [Jimmy’s mother moves towards the bubble puts her hand through some gloves that are attached to the bubble and enable her to touch Jimmy’s cheeks.] Those evil doctors, nobody’s going to get any germs on my little boy now. You’ll always stay pure, won’t you Jimmy?
(Why stamping dough with a Jesus fish cookie cutter.) Jimmy, breakfey!

[While in his bubble, Jimmy reads a magazine while his mom cuts his hair.]

JIMMY: I had my reading. I wish they had more than one magazine in the world, mom.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: So do I dear.

[While in his bubble, Jimmy reads a magazine while his mom cuts his hair.]

JIMMY: I had my favorite TV show— *Land of the Lost*. I wish they had more than one channel on the TV, mom.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: So do I dear.

[Jimmy's mother stamps out cross shaped dough. The scene shifts and she inserts it into the bubble.]

JIMMY'S MOTHER: Jimmy, lunchie!

JIMMY: [The scene changes to the dinner table.] (Playing a guitar inside of his bubble.) I grew up like any other kid. At 16, I didn't get a car but I did get an electrical rock music guitar! I was so happy. I had everything a boy could want until . . . Chloe . . .! [Jimmy looks out his window at Chloe; they smile at each other. Then the scene changes to Jimmy's mother reading to him as an adult she reads, "And then Pinnochio came out of his plastic bubble, touched the little whore, and died! The End."]

JIMMY'S MOTHER: Something tells me she's not the kind of friend Jesus would pick, Jimmy.

Jimmy lives in a bubble constructed by fear.

But the fear is actually a *lie*.

He actually does have immunity from the evil in the air all around him—
antibodies circulating in the blood, something in the blood.

It turns out that his mother is lying to maintain control of Jimmy.

You know the devil is lying to maintain control of you.

Sometimes he even uses mother church to do it.⁶

And maybe you're not so safe inside that bubble...

But already trapped... in the land of the lost... safe as hell.

⁶ And so maybe you don't need the bubble,
And there is an immunity to evil, even now, circulating in our blood.



- When I was born into this world, I looked just like Jimmy.
- Then, I believed a lie and tried to justify myself with my judgments.
- I took knowledge of Good and evil... in fear.
- And so, I built a bubble... and it looks something like this:



I think my bubble protects the naked, insecure and lonely me from judgment.
I think my bubble man saves my life.

I found this little story in my files:

The man saw people love each other, and he saw that love made strenuous demands on the lovers. He saw that love required sacrifice and self-denial. He saw that love produced arguments, jealousy and sorrow. He decided that love cost too much. He decided not to diminish his life with love.

He saw people run for distant and hazy goals... He saw strong and committed men fail, and he saw weak, undeserving men succeed. He saw that striving was often pettiness and greed. He decided to not even try. He decided not to mar his life with hope and failure.

He saw people serving others. He saw men give money to the poor and helpless. He saw that the more they served, the faster the need grew. He saw ungrateful receivers turn on their serving friends. He decided not to soil his life with serving.

When he died, he walked up to God and presented his life to Him - undiminished, unmarred, unsoiled. The man was clean and untouched by the filth of the world, and he presented himself to God proudly saying, "Here is my life!"

And God said, "Life? What life?"

You can't lose your life... if you don't have one.
And unless you lose your life, for the sake of Christ and his kingdom, you'll never find it.

WHATEVER THE CASE, Solomon says,

"Rejoice... But remember that for all of these things God will bring you into the Judgment."

DOES HE MEAN TO SAY,

"ANXIETY will save you from the Judgment"

Ecclesiastes 12:10 (the next verse): *"Remove vexation."*

Remove [ANXIETY] vexation [ka'as: NIV NRSV-"anxiety," NCV "worry," KJV "provocation," NASV "grief and anger," NKJV-"sorrow"] from your heart...

"Remove anxiety from your heart..."

What a bizarre line of reasoning:

1. Rejoice and live your life with radical abandon.
2. But remember God will bring you into the Judgment.
3. Don't worry.

WELL, What could possibly produce more worry, anxiety, vexation, repression and misery... than to live with the constant knowledge that one day, God will judge every action, thought and motive . . . And reward

- Some people with unimaginable ecstasy in an unfading and eternal home.
- While punishing others in an endless and eternal hell?

What could possibly create more vexation of the heart than Judgment?

Or maybe we don't know God's judgment?

Because we've believed a lie, even told by our mother...

Because she believed a lie, told by a snake...

A lie about the tree in the middle of the garden.

A lie about Wisdom, who He is, and what He wants.

A lie about the Word, the Will, and the Judgment of God.

A lie that God's judgment is not Good . . .

And therefore cannot be trusted.

Look again:

Ecclesiastes 12: 9-10

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes.

But [more commonly this conjunction is translated "and," or "that is"]...

"But" expresses the confusion of the translator.

So, Solomon literally writes *"Rejoice... and know... God will Judge."*

Remember there are two ways of knowing.

Solomon took wisdom like knowledge of good and evil plucked from a tree, then wrote, *“In much wisdom is much ka’as—*anxiety and vexation” (Ecc. 1:17)

- He took Wisdom and everything died,
- And yet he received wisdom and called it a tree of life...(Prov. 3:18).

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. And know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment [ha mishpat: “the Judgment”]. Remove vexation [ka’as: anxiety, worry] from your heart...

In Chapter 7 Solomon told us how he removed “vexation” from his heart.

He wrote, *“Ka’as (translated “sorrow” and “vexation”) is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.”*

- He described how he would go to the house of mourning and it would turn into the house of mirth.
- He would go to the Temple and sit before the altar on which the priests would, twice daily, sacrifice a lamb.
- On the Day of Atonement, the blood was sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant, which was the throne of God, which was also the judgment seat of God, the throne of Wisdom.

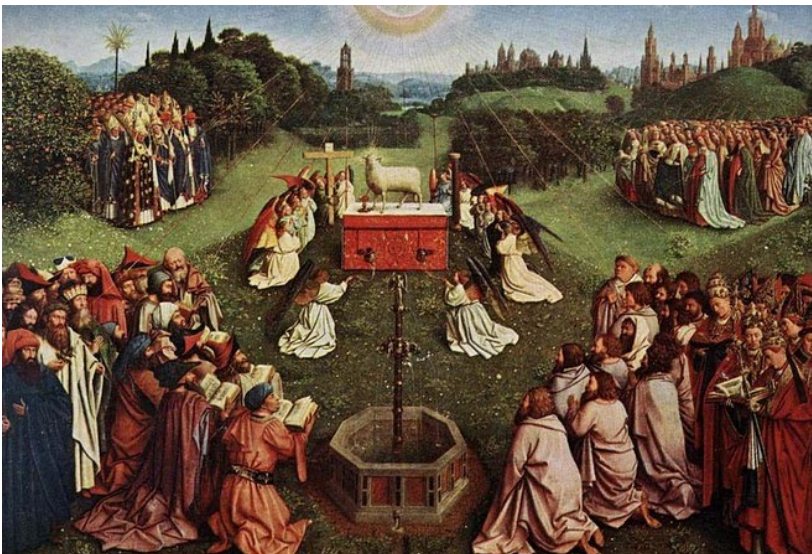


Figure 1 Image credit: Hubert and Jan van Eyck, Ghent Altarpiece, completed 1432. Saint Bavo Cathedral, Ghent

Solomon would go to the temple and, in some form, see the very thing the Apostle John sees in the Revelation—a lamb standing on the throne of God, as if it had been slain, while all creation sang the glory of God. Solomon would

go to the Sanctuary and see the Judgment of God.

Do you understand?

Solomon is not saying that Anxiety will save you from the Judgment of God.

He's saying the Judgment of God will save you from Anxiety.

So what is the Judgment of God?

Solomon says "The Judgment..." (singular)

That must be one eternal Judgment seen from various perspectives throughout space and time.

So . . . judgment in the garden, judgment on Sodom, judgment in the temple, the judgment of the sheep and goats, the judgment from the great white throne . . . must all be a manifestation of God's eternal judgment, the judgment, in time.

John 3:19 Jesus says, "*This is the Judgment: The Light has come into the world...*"

John 8:12 He says, "*I AM the Light of the world.*"

John 12:31 He says, "*Now is the judgment of this world.*"

Light is eternal, and now is the point that eternity touches time.

"Now is the judgment of this world and when I am lifted up," said Jesus (speaking of His cross). "I will draw all people to myself."

Jesus is the Word of God, Will of God, Wisdom of God and Light that is God.

Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus is "the Judgment" in flesh.

When we teach people to run from judgment, we teach them to run from Jesus. We speak the lies of the snake and create the land of the lost. Like Jesus said to the Pharisees, "*You make a convert, and make him twice as much a child of Hell.*"

I can't tell you the number of times that pastors—of all people—have told me, "*You can't teach that God in Christ Jesus makes all things new (Rev. 21:5) Because Hebrew 9:27 says, 'It is appointed once for man to die and then comes judgment.'*"

I want to grab them and scream, "That means, Then comes Jesus. Then comes life. Then comes light shining in the darkness... And by the way, He was here all along, we just couldn't see him, for we were hiding in our bubbles, fig leaves, fear and shame."

And it is true:

- Some don't enter into Judgment, but only because they've already been

judged!

- And some do enter into Judgment, but only because they haven't yet come to Jesus.

The *Judgment* is *Jesus*.

Now, you might say fine . . . but what does that mean for me?
What's God's Judgment of me?

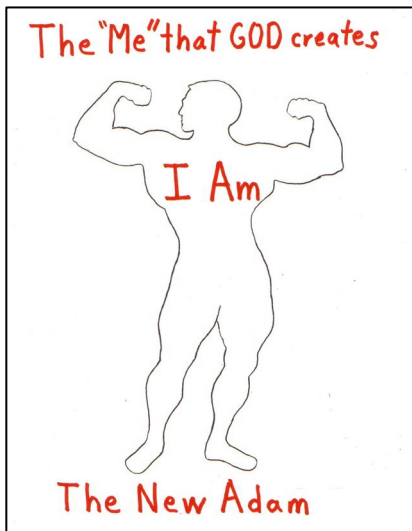
Well it's the same as His Judgment on all. "All die and all go to the same place," says Solomon.

In chapter 3:11 Solomon wrote: "*God has made everything (and you're a thing He makes) beautiful in its time... and whatever God makes endures forever. Nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.*"

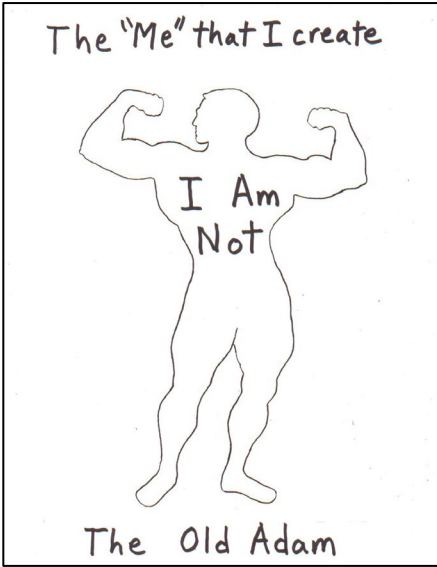
- God makes you beautiful in time, and that self that God makes is not temporal but eternal.
- But you also make a self, temporal and fading away, and that self is beastly, the vanity of vanities, and fading away.

In 3:16 Solomon continues:

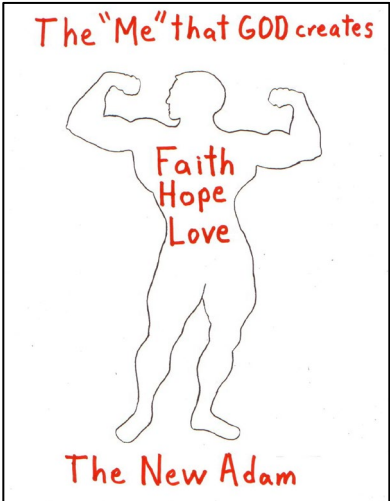
...In the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.



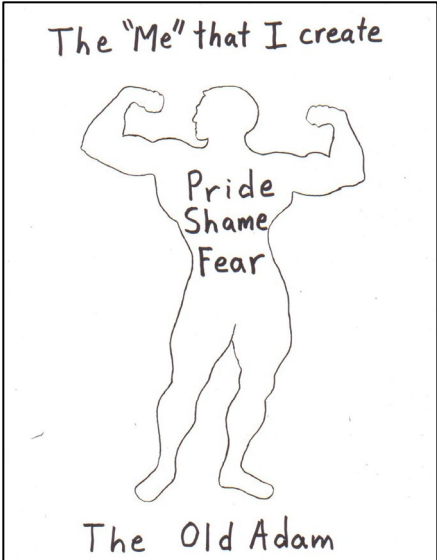
So, I have a "me" that God creates, and this is who I AM



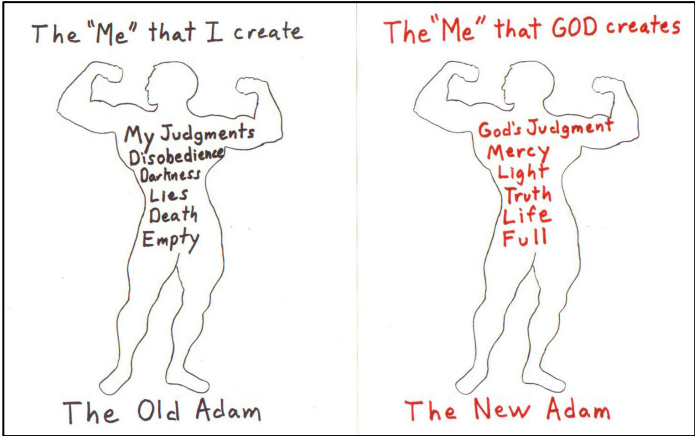
And I have a "me" that I create, and this is who I Am not.



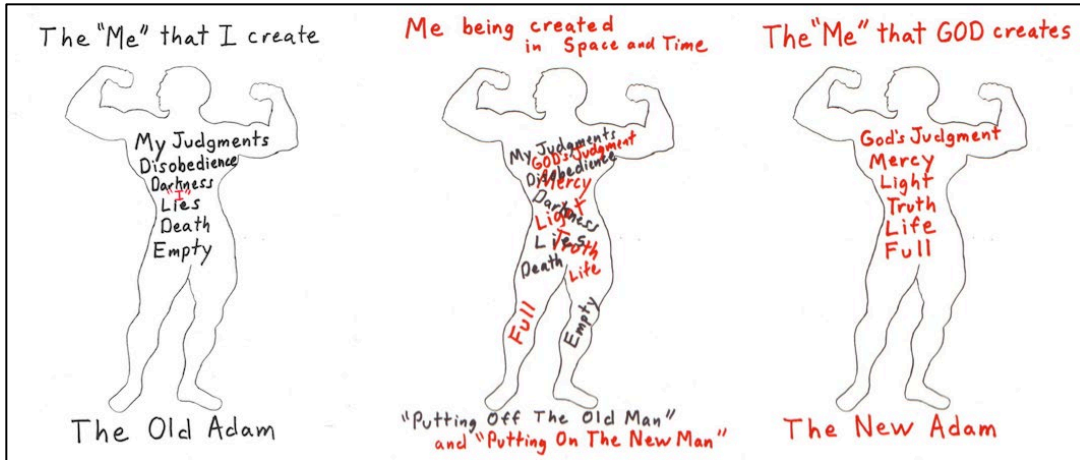
I have a "me" constructed with faith hope and love, which are eternal.



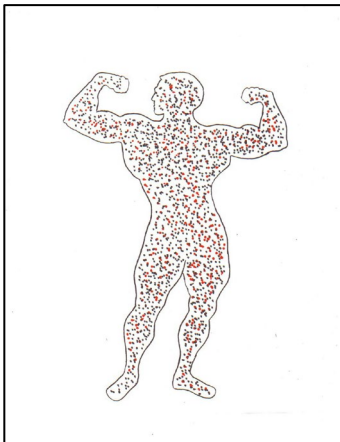
And I have a "me" constructed with pride shame and fear, which are an illusion.



- Likewise you have a "me," that you create with your judgments
- And you have a "me" that God has created with His eternal judgment.



Right now you are a mix



And you can't sort it all out. Like wheat and tares or something . . .

Like Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 9:1,

"Whether it is love or hate, the Adam (man) does not know."

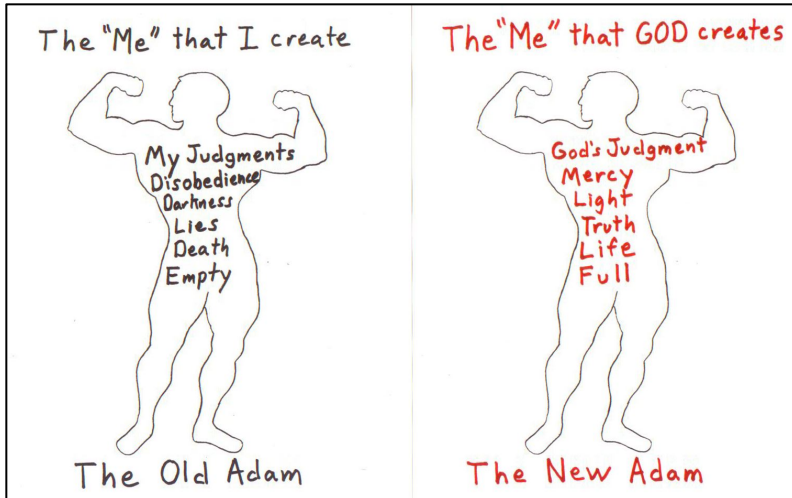
In other words, "I can't judge."

But because I think I *must* judge—I'm totally stressed!

Yet when I come to trust God's Judgment, I'm incapable of worry.

For I see that there's no more "me" to worry about.

Even when I worry about others, I'm really worrying about "me." I'm worried that "me" can't save them.



See? This is me...

I don't have to worry about the "me" on the left, because he's already been crucified with Christ.

I don't have to worry about that "me" cause he's truly not "me."

I don't have to worry about that "me" and I can even be grateful for that me;

For it's in my disobedience that God reveals His Mercy...

It's in my darkness that God reveals the light...

It's in my false self that God reveals my true self, which is his self...

That self doesn't want to sin.

And yet, I can be grateful that I have sinned, for "*where sin increased Grace abounded all the more.*" That's the Judgment of God and it's beautiful; that's Jesus.

- I don't have to worry about the "me" on the left, because he's been crucified with Christ.
- And I don't have to worry about the "me" on the right, because he is Christ—I mean the body of Christ and the life of Christ—that's shaped like "me."

This new "me" is eternal and indestructible!

I can't add to him and I can't take away from him.

I can only be grateful for him and live his life, which is my life.

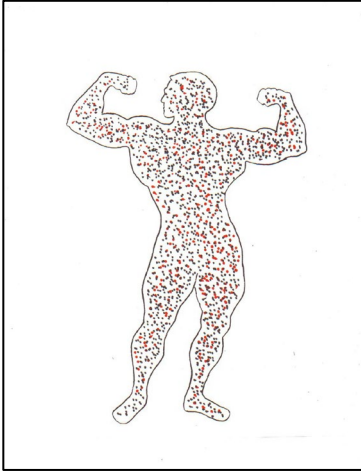
You see God's judgment of "me," actually is the true "me."

So, if I run from Judgment I run from Jesus and I run from me.

If an accuser comes to me and says you're self-righteous and deceived, I'm tempted to worry about it, accuse myself and create more false me. That's the "me" constructed with self-righteousness who is deceived.

But when I trust God's Judgment, I can say to the accuser:

“I’m a mess and I can’t sort me out, but God will sort me out.



- I may be self-righteous in all sorts of ways. Praise God he will reveal those ways.
- And I may be truly righteous in all sorts of ways. Praise God He is those ways.
- Praise God there is no “me” to worry about! Now get behind me satan.

Can you imagine how the accuser would accuse the Apostle Paul?
I bet he sometimes used the Corinthians to do just that...
And I imagine Paul felt tempted to quit.

That’s when I’m tempted to quit . . .

When I feel incapable to judge and think I must judge.

Well, in 1 Corinthians 4:2-5 Paul writes to the Corinthians saying:

...It is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.

See? Anxiety didn’t save Paul from God’s Judgment.

But, God’s Judgment saved Paul from anxiety.

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord

comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation (literally, his praise from God) from God.

What a gracious and wild thought!

Years ago, a prophetic friend of mine wrote to me:

Peter, I saw a picture of you with your mouth wide open, almost like you were screaming, and out of your mouth stuck your tongue but it was very long and on the end was a very ugly, hideous, grimacing face.

This did not make any sense until I asked what it meant and the answer came that this is a picture of your greatest fear... that what you speak would either be wrong when it comes out or be twisted and used for evil.

But Jesus says to you, "Look at how I see you, as a faceless being full of light and nothing comes out of your mouth, it all proceeds out of your heart, that is My Heart that I have placed in you. When you are confronted with fear or failing, remember that I AM holding you up and you will not fall as long as you look at my face."

That's wild but it reminds me of how my kids learned to walk:

They'd look at me, their eyes would light up, and they'd take a step with those pudgy little legs...

And I'd smile and say "good job, you can do it..."

Then maybe they'd look away and they'd fall...

And I'd yell, "You failure! Have you no pride?"

You can't even walk!"

Actually, I didn't do that and if I did do that, they might never have walked.

No, they'd fall and I'd say, "No worries. Now look at me and try again!"

My face was their judgment and they longed to live before my face.

"See me Daddy! Watch me dance, Daddy! Look at my picture daddy!"⁷

- Anxiety didn't save them from my judgment.
- My Judgment saved them from anxiety.
- And gave them the courage to walk, ride bikes, ski down mountains and love people even when it hurts.

⁷ My children loved my judgment until they began to judge themselves with their knowledge of good and evil.

That's how they learned to walk.

That's also how Saint Peter learned to walk... on water, feed the sheep, and preach the Gospel.

- As long as he looked in Jesus face, he walked on the water.
- But as soon as he looked at the wind and waves, he sank into the sea.
- And then when he called out to Jesus and looked once more; Jesus didn't condemn him, Jesus saved him—that was His judgment.

How did *"Pick up your cross and come follow me"* turn into *"Be careful because God will judge. Be cautious. Be careful. Be safe!"*

If you insist on feeling safe,
You will never get out of the boat.
You will never walk on water.
You will never fail and never be saved.
You will never pick up a cross and come follow.
You will never surrender your spirit.
You will never lose your life, and find it.
You will never love another person.

But. . .

You will trap yourself alone in the land of the lost.

Choosing safety may be the most unsafe thing a person could ever do.

And now, if that realization just made you anxious, you better *look* for the judgment of God, *hope* in the judgment of God and *trust* the judgment of God.

So where and when is the Judgment of God?

Well we know it was revealed on the tree in the garden 2000 years ago.
And we know all eyes will see it at the end of time.
And yet . . . it's now and I think it's all around us.
Creation itself is a manifestation of the Judgment of God, which is the Word of God, which is the Wisdom of Love.



I think it must be all around us, and in it *“we live and move and have our being.”* And yet we don’t see it, believe it, or receive it because we’re trapped in a bubble.

See? I think our true self is trapped inside our false self. And we cannot truly live until that old self is at least surrendered, at least is offered and that old self dies . . .

We can’t truly live, which means we can’t truly Love... No one can love, if they’re constantly worried about their self. You know that from going to parties where you feel insecure; it’s like impossible to love. No one can love, if they’re constantly worried about their self.

And so God descends into our dark little bubble as a Word, which is Good News, which is also His Judgment.

On the cross Jesus delivered up His Spirit. That Spirit descends into our dark little hearts. He is the Prince of Peace who has come to reign from the throne in the Sanctuary that is your heart.

“Remove Anxiety from the throne, in the sanctuary of your heart” says Solomon AND *“Let the peace of Christ, rule in your hearts,”* writes Paul (Col. 3:15).

All you have to do is call to Him now, focus on Him now, pray to Him now and surrender to Him now in the Sanctuary of your heart and you expose yourself to the Judgment of God.

And His eternal Judgment becomes your judgment in time—your decision . . .
. . .To cast your bread on the water,
. . .To give a portion to seven or even to eight,
. . .To sow your seed and not withhold your hand,
. . .To surrender your life and find it,

. . .To no longer hold your breath, but to surrender your spirit,
. . .To love and be loved.

Soren Kierkegaard wrote: “Decision is the awakening to the eternal...

In the end, the archenemy of decision is cowardice.

Cowardice is constantly trying to break off the good agreement of decision with eternity.

NOW LISTEN:

Others will come along and try to make the decision for you.

And you will be tempted to let them.

- They will offer you more knowledge of good and evil.
- They will give you laws, programs, and procedures.
- They will say, “God says you’re to do this and God says you’re to do that.”
Yet even prophecy must be tested in the sanctuary of your own heart—
within the private sanctuary of your own heart.

You see God has arranged all things such that a good free decision must come from the most intimate surrender to the Prince of Peace enthroned in the depths of your heart.

Love is the product of your personal communion with Him.

He is jealous for you and will settle for no other.

Well, it turns out that Chloe loves Jimmy, the bubble boy.

But Jimmy is terrified to love Chloe because he believes his mother’s lies.

Jimmy rejects Chloe, and in sorrow, she agrees to marry another man.

Before she does, she leaves Jimmy a snow globe—with two people in the same bubble—and on the snow globe is a judgment: “I love you.” That’s when Jimmy makes a decision.

Jimmy the Bubble Boy Clip #2

[Within his bubble, Jimmy looks at the snow globe Chloe gave him. The words inside reveal that it says, “I love you.” The scene changes to Jimmy looking at a diagram of a mobile bubble suit in the dark with a flashlight.]

JIMMY: All I knew was that she was in New York. She mine as well have been on the other side of the galaxy. And all I had was three days to get there—three days. I just needed the bubble suit to last that long.

The scene changes again to Jimmy packing his things and then entering the mobile bubble suit. He exits his home and runs down the street and even cartwheels. His mother and father chase after him in a truck.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: Jimmy! Jimmy! Stop the car!

JIMMY: No Mom, I'm sorry. I have to do this. I'm not coming home.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: Jimmy! Jimmy, no!

[Jimmy's travels continue through much peril and adventure. Then the scene turns to Jimmy, once again, running in a very dusty bubble suit. Then the scene turns to a wedding ceremony.]

PASTOR: Do you Mark take Chloe to be your lawfully wedded wife? And do you
Chloe take Mark to be your lawfully wedded husband?

[Jimmy runs into the ceremony.]

JIMMY: Chloe!

CHLOE: Jimmy!

CHLOE: What? What? [Jimmy takes off the bubble suit.]

Jimmy what are you doing? Jimmy? Jimmy?

JIMMY: I'd rather spend one minute holding you than spending the rest of my life
knowing I never could. So if you don't mind, may I kiss the bride? [Jimmy kisses Chloe.]
I love you. I love you so much, forever.

CHLOE: Jimmy? [Jimmy collapses.]

No, no! I love you, Jimmy. I've always loved you.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: He's dead! You killed him! My sweet Jimmy, my precious boy.

JIMMY'S FATHER: Tell him.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: What are you talking about? Tell him what?

JIMMY'S FATHER: He's not dead. You're not dead, Jimmy.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: He's lying, Jimmy.

JIMMY'S FATHER: Tell him. Tell him everything.

JIMMY'S MOTHER: You're not dead, Jimmy.

JIMMY: I'm not?

JIMMY'S MOTHER: You developed immunities when you were four. I couldn't bear to
let the world ruin you. There are so many awful things out there Jimmy.
There's so many horrible things!

JIMMY: So, since I'm not dead, um.

[Jimmy and Chloe embrace and kiss. The scene end later in life with Jimmy and Chloe running off together at the end of their wedding]

Jesus is the Groom, and we are the Bride hiding in a bubble of fear.

*And so the Prince of Peace, descended into our frightened little world
Took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body (this is His bubble broken)
given to you." He said, "Do this in remembrance of me."*

And He took the cup saying, "This is the covenant in my blood." Antibodies are

in the blood. Judgment is in the blood. The grace of God is in the blood. It's Jesus' blood and He says, "Remember this. Look at this. Do this and remember me. And enjoy the party."

Receive it and sacrifice your caution to the Holy Wind—*ruakh*.

In Jesus' name, believe the Gospel, and choose to live free.

Prayer

Lord God, in the name of Jesus I confess. Peter Hiett confesses and I also confess on behalf of all of us together, and I hope people agree with this confession. I confess that I have allowed anxiety to sit on the throne of the sanctuary of my heart. And now I thank you Lord that you have sent your Judgment, my Lord Jesus, to sit on the throne of the sanctuary of my heart.

I thank you that there is nothing stronger than your Word, who is Jesus, who has the power to break every chain, who loves me and who reigns over all creation. Father, that's the good Judgment. Thank you!

Benediction

I don't know what this message means for you. Maybe it means:

- You will pray for someone who's sick, even if you might not see them healed.
- Or maybe, you will ask someone out for coffee, even if you might get rejected.
- Or maybe you will "sell your possessions and give to the poor," even if it might make you poor, like Jesus.
- Or maybe you will tell the Truth, even though you'll probably get crucified.
- Or maybe you will love your enemies.

I said I that I didn't know who the king in your heart told you to vote for. I mean that. However, I do know that the King in your heart told us to "love our enemies. I don't know exactly what that will look like for you. Maybe you will find a way to lay your life down for Iraqis and Syrians, even if it makes you look un-American. Whatever the case, you must not let fear reign in your heart. "Perfect love casts our fear." And that's our Lord Jesus.

So believe the Gospel and choose to live free. Amen.

Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.