

## Those who Justify Themselves

There is one verse that we have to understand and apply to ourselves and not just the hypocrites. It could apply to us. We know we are this way sometimes, and we especially know when others are this way. But we don't have to be this way.

*And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God. (Lk 16:15)*

"You are the ones who justify yourselves," He told the Pharisees. Have you ever seen that in the community? Almost immediately, you try to justify yourself?

*"For that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God."*

If we try to look good in the eyes of men, we will find ourselves doing that which is detestable to God, our Father. We can see many places where that word "justify" is used, but to support us justifying ourselves. The only way we can justify ourselves is by doing righteous acts that prove that we are truly disciples. Lk 7:29 says they justified God.

The word *justify* is the same word whether it is speaking of justifying yourself, or to justifying our Father, or to be justified by our works, as in Jms 2:21 and 24. A person's works bring out, show, and demonstrate the fact that he is righteous. Even as Jn 15:8 says, "Bearing much fruit, so proving to be My disciples."

*He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Sovereign. (Pr 17:15)*

I wouldn't want to be a judge in the world. Everyone who sits on a jury and justifies the wicked is an abomination to God. You can hardly get what you are saying out of your mouth before someone tries to justify himself. We can't be that way. That is seeking the esteem of men. That which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. We try to justify ourselves, but our Father knows our heart. We want

people to think we are justified after making a bad judgment, but actually, we are not.

And then we convince the people we are talking to that we are justified.

*All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Sovereign weighs the spirits.  
(Pr 16:2)*

*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Sovereign weighs the hearts. (Pr  
21:2)*

*If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts  
consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to  
each man according to his deeds? (Pr 24:12)*

*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for  
everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be  
exalted. (Lk 18:14)*

And then there were those who justified God:

*And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been  
baptized with the baptism of John. (Lk 7:29)*

Does God need to be justified? Yes, He does. That is what we are living for. Pray that your Father's name would be justified, hallowed, made great (Mt 6:9). His name has been dragged through the mire, and blasphemed.

To justify is to show that you are righteous by the deeds that you do, just as our faith is proven by the deeds that we do (Rom 2:24).

*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my  
disciples. (Jn 15:8, NIV)*

Chets Barur – Justifying yourself doesn't make you justified. Hearing and heeding the word – receiving the implanted word that is able to save your soul (Jms 1:21) – is what justifies you.

*[A brother came in late and immediately started to justify himself because of the  
heavy traffic on the freeway.]*

You shouldn't justify yourself so quickly, and this applies to all of us. Heavy traffic is a good excuse around here, isn't it? But if you are late because on the way you stopped and got something and then you came into the gathering and said it was because of heavy traffic – that would be an abomination.

Jeremiah – I am thankful to hear this. I see that I justify myself all the time. I want to be saved from that. I want to worry about making our Father look good. That should be enough. That is what I heard tonight. We are supposed to justify our Father. I am thankful and convicted by what I heard.

Amen. You were justified by what you said. It meant that you are a true disciple, for the Holy Spirit convicted you. Not owning up to it would be justifying yourself.

*For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.  
(Mt 12:37)*

Isn't that amazing? Who said that? Was it a Pharisee who said that? Can we trust Him? It was our Master Yahshua who said, "By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned." And what does verse 35 say?

*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*

We have to watch what we say. What is in the well comes up in the bucket.

*But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Yahshua, "And who is my neighbor?" (Lk 10:29)*

What was He saying to him? That you must love your neighbor as yourself – which is why the man was trying to justify himself, for he didn't want to do that.

Mevaser – What Yoneq was talking about strikes at the very heart of what makes us a people. In my life, self-justification begins a long time before I open my mouth. You can start to work it out a long time before anybody asks. A thought comes to you that someone might have a question about what you're doing. Then you begin to reason out all the justifications for your actions or words. Really, it is self-life, seeking to justify yourself, seeking to save your life. If we justify ourselves with our words, we do it in our hearts first. When these things work in our hearts, it keeps us separate from one another. It keeps us from having a right estimation of ourselves.

Shimshone – I am thankful we can justify our Father's name if we stop trying to justify ourselves. All through history, our Father has been maligned as a cruel, unjust God, throwing people into hell without regard for how they have lived their lives. He needs to be justified. We justify Him by dying to ourselves. What will justify us at the end of this age is that we justified not ourselves, but our Father's name.

In Mt 12:34 our Master asked, “Can someone evil speak anything good?” If we are good, then what is in the well will come up in the bucket. If we crucify the flesh daily, what will be in the bucket?

*Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. (Mt 12:34-36)*

Can you imagine that? Our careless words are the ones we don't even confess, for we say them when we are not judging ourselves rightly. Then our sins pile up as high as heaven. We hurt someone and made them feel bad or misrepresent someone and make someone else feel bad about a brother. Really, it is sowing discord, and if you sow discord, according to Pr 6:19, you are an abomination. If we hurt someone we have to go to that person and confess our sin, and then go to our Father. That is how we stay in the Body. Let's all take it to heart: every one of us. What did I say we have to take to heart, Mattan?

Mattan ben Keli – That we will be judged for every careless word.

That is good. That means you are listening and that you are going to be great.

Who hasn't said anything in a long time? What does Heb 3:6 say?

*But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

We have to hold fast our confidence that gives us our outspokenness. Otherwise, there is something that silences our confidence, our outspokenness.

There is one flock and one shepherd (Jn 10:16). That ends it all, doesn't it? There is no division. That shepherd is shepherding us all and teaching us all the same thing, no matter whether we are ten thousand miles apart. That is wonderful, isn't it? It is what separates us from all the division.