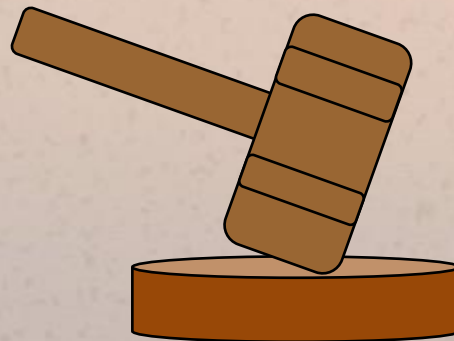


# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

## JUDGING OTHERS

### MATTHEW 7

*For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works,  
according to the desire of their hearts.  
D&C 137:9*



# SHOULD WE JUDGE OTHERS?

Mathias Tualima Tunai

Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are.



Mother Teresa

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.



Albert Einstein

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.



Jesus

Judge not, that ye be not judged



# JUDGMENT

Sometimes people feel that it is wrong to judge others in any way.

While it is true that you should not condemn others or judge them unrighteously, you will need to make judgments of ideas, situations, and people throughout your life. . . .



Judgment is an important use of your agency and requires great care, especially when you make judgments about other people..



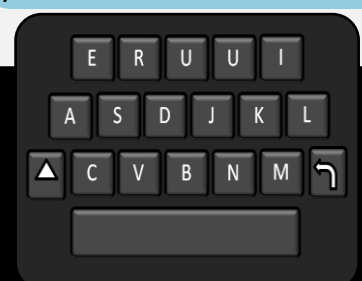
All your judgments must be guided by righteous standards

Remember that only God, who knows each individual's heart, can make final judgments of individuals.




As much as you can, judge people's situations rather than judging the people themselves.

Whenever possible, refrain from making judgments until you have an adequate knowledge of the facts. Always be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, who can guide your decisions"




## What types of judgments should we make?

# SHOULD WE JUDGE OTHERS?

The Greek word mote =   
tiny speck, chip, or  
splinter.

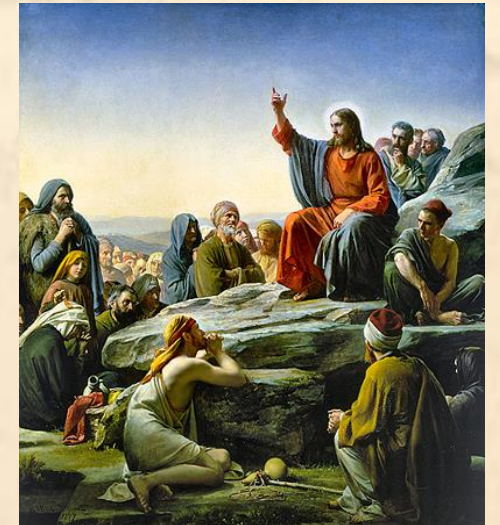


The Greek word beam =   
a large wooden beam used in  
constructing houses.



The Savior's reference to the mote and beam is an example of *hyperbole*, a figure of speech that **uses exaggeration to make a point**.

The Savior's teaching turns our focus from other people's faults to our own.





“This business of beams and motes seems to be closely related to our inability to see ourselves clearly. I’m not sure why we are able to diagnose and recommend remedies for other people’s ills so well, while we often have difficulty seeing our own.” (2)



**If we focus on removing our own sins and weaknesses, then we will be less likely to judge others unrighteously**

"Our vision is completely obscured when we have no mirror to hold up to our own faults and look only for the foibles of others. When we follow the instructions of the Lord, we are kept so busy perfecting ourselves that we come to realize that the faults of others are small in comparison. We should establish the delightful habit, then, of minimizing the weaknesses of others and thus increase our own virtues. (3)

When it comes to hating, gossiping, ignoring, ridiculing, holding grudges, or wanting to cause harm, please apply the following:



"We simply have to stop judging others and replace judgmental thoughts and feelings with a heart full of love for God and His children. God is our Father."

I recently saw [a bumper sticker]...attached to the back of a car whose driver appeared to be a little rough around the edges, but the words on the sticker taught an insightful lesson. It read:

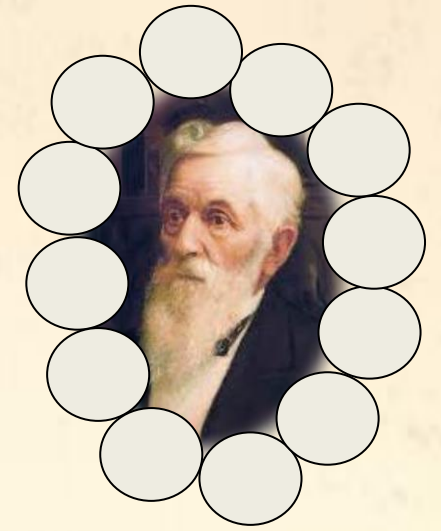
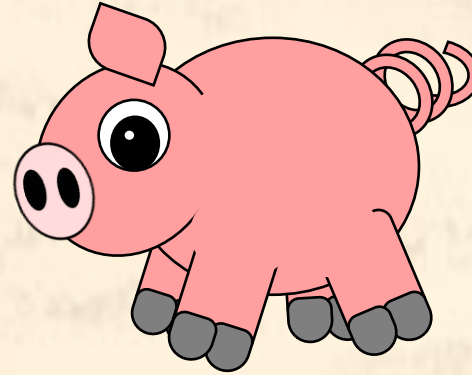
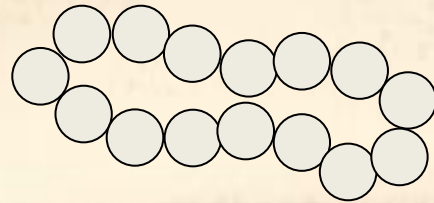


# PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

“...His pearls of wisdom, knowledge, and precious gifts.

The consequence is, we lose blessings instead of retaining them—a decrease of the Holy Spirit follows, instead of an increase, and our minds become darkened.”

(4)



“Negative criticism, or “unrighteous judgment,” as the Lord calls it, seems to come naturally to mortals. It can be a form of self-righteousness and also a way of excusing our own actions.

“Righteous judgment is made under the influence of the Spirit by those who are seeking to become worthy recipients of the Spirit. This type of judgment always builds rather than tears down.” (5)

# ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK



“Our Father in Heaven has invited you to express your needs, hopes, and desires unto Him.

That should not be done in a spirit of negotiation, but rather as a willingness to obey His will no matter what direction that takes.

His invitation ‘Ask, and ye shall receive’ does not assure that you will get what you *want*. It does guarantee that, if worthy, you will get what you *need*, as judged by a Father that loves you perfectly, who wants your eternal happiness even more than do you.” (6)



*Therefore, ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for he that asketh, receiveth; and unto him that knocketh, it shall be opened.*



# JST- MATTHEW 7:9-11



*9 Go ye into the world, saying unto all, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh unto you.*

*10 And the mysteries of the kingdom ye shall keep within yourselves; for it is not meet to give that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls unto swine, lest they trample them under their feet.*

*11 For the world cannot receive that which ye, yourselves, are not able to bear; wherefore ye shall not give your pearls unto them, lest they turn again and rend you.*

The disciples were to teach repentance but keep the mysteries of the kingdom to themselves. In other words, they were not to discuss sacred subjects with people who were not ready to receive them.

The Savior taught that just as a loving father would not give a stone or a snake when his son asks for bread or fish, Heavenly Father will not deny the gift of personal revelation to His children who ask for it.

# JST- MATTHEW 7:12

What were the disciples told to say to people who wanted to receive knowledge from God?

*12 Say unto them, Ask of God; ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*



A. Calvin

**As we ask, seek, and knock in our search for truth, Heavenly Father will answer and bless us with personal revelation**

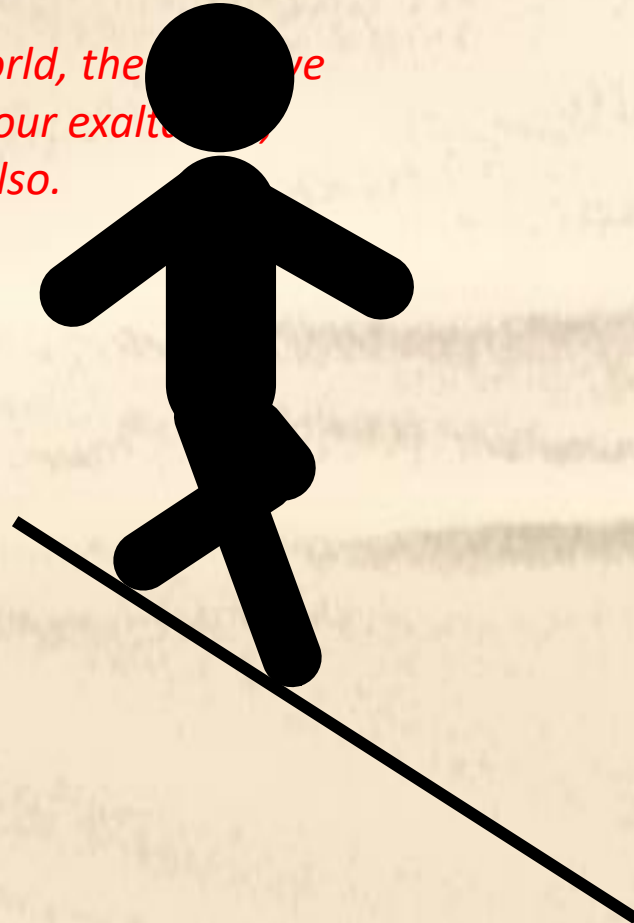
# THE STRAIT GATE

Few there be that find it.

*For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me.*

*But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation, that where I am ye shall be also.*

*D&C 132:22-23*



Strait = used in reference to a situation characterized by a specified degree of trouble or difficulty--Definition

*Strait = those who enter into it will find it restricted. It is narrow...they cannot take with them that which does not apply, or which does not belong to the kingdom of God.*

*All such things must be left behind when we enter into this narrow way which leads in to the presence of god, where we can receive life eternal..” (7)*





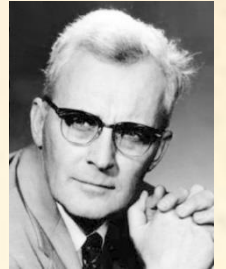
# FALSE PROPHETS






## A warning

“both men and women, who are self-appointed declarers of the doctrines of the Church” as well as “those who speak and publish in opposition to God’s true prophets and who actively proselyte others with reckless disregard for the eternal well-being of those whom they seduce.” (8)

**We can discern false prophets by their fruits**

## A False Prophet is:



-  Anyone who competes with God’s work.
-  Anyone who makes claims on the time and energies of men which rightly belong to God.
-  Anyone who puts the word of god in 2<sup>nd</sup> place to the theories of men.
-  Anyone who forces the teaching of true prophets to yield precedence to his own discourses.
-  Anyone who puts his own knowledge above or on a level with revelation from heaven. (9)



A prophecy which goes unfulfilled is the fruit of a corrupt tree.

**We can discern false prophets by their fruits**

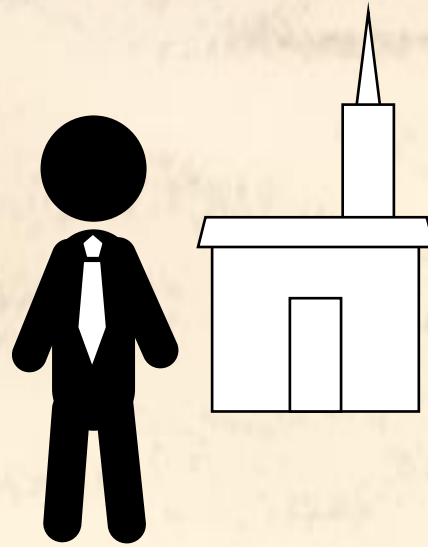


“...how often do we say to an investigator, "Don't judge the Church by the members---the Church is perfect, but its members are not"?”

Certainly, the members of the Church are not perfect, but the fruits of their discipleship should stand as a witness to the goodness of their souls. If not, we are not living up to the standard which the Lord has established. (10)

# NOT EVERYONE

Many will preach that the phrase, "by grace ye are saved," means that the individual only has to believe in Christ to be saved.



Can we be saved by just going to church?

Can we be saved by believing in Jesus?

Is there more that we need to do in order to enter into the kingdom of God?



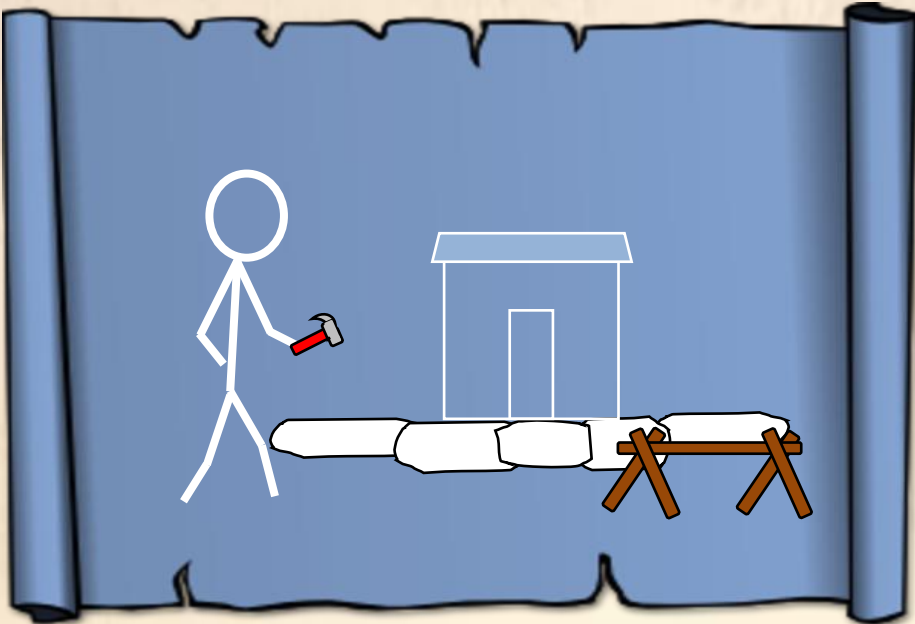
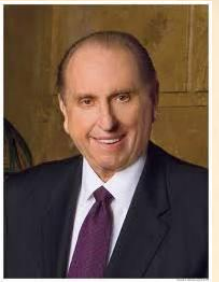
“...merely acknowledging Jesus' lordship, merely saying the words or making the confession, while refusing to make Him our Lord by serving Him and conforming our behavior to His will-this will not get us into the kingdom.

The confession or the acknowledgment must be accompanied by doing the will of the Father in heaven and by not doing iniquity.” (11)



*“I never knew you” = “Ye never knew me” JST*

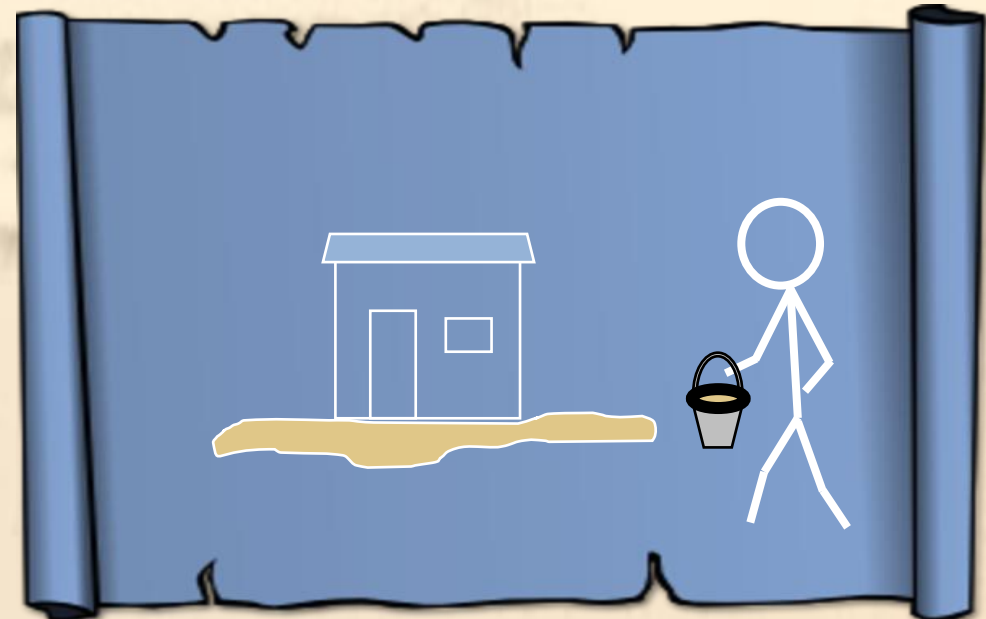
# UPON THE ROCK OR THE SAND?



"Where could any of us locate a more suitable blueprint whereby he could wisely and properly build?"

Such a house would meet the building code outlined in Matthew, even a house built 'upon a rock.'...a house capable of withstanding the rains of adversity, the floods of opposition, and the winds of doubt everywhere present in our challenging world...

Let the Lord be the General Contractor for the family-even the home-we build. Then each of us can be the subcontractors responsible for a vital segment of the whole project. All of us are thereby builders." (12)





**If we hear and act on the Lord's teachings, then He will strengthen us to endure our trials.**

**If we hear the Lord's teachings but do not follow them, then we will not have the support we need when trials come.**





# THOSE IN AUTHORITY

"The Sermon on the Mount has stood through all the years since its delivery without another to be compared with it.



No mortal man has ever since preached a discourse of its kind. The spirit of the address is throughout that of sincerity and action, as opposed to empty profession and neglect...

Such doctrines as these astonished the people. For His distinctive teachings the Preacher had cited no authority but His own." (13)



Sources:

Suggested Hymn: # A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Videos:

Lord Is It I? (3:00)

Judging Others- Stop It! (3:19)

Looking Through Windows (2:19)



1. True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference [2004], 90–91).
2. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf *Lord, Is it I?* *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2014, 56).
3. President Spencer W. Kimball *The Miracle of Forgiveness* p. 269
4. President Lorenzo Snow (*The Teachings of Lorenzo Snow*, p. 73)
5. Arthur R. Bassett Floods, Winds, and the Gates of Hell June 1991 *Ensign*
6. Elder Richard G. Scott (“Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 17).
7. Joseph Fielding Smith (*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 2. pp. 13-14 as taken from *Latter-day Commentary on the Book of Mormon* compiled by K. Douglas Bassett, p.31-2)
8. Elder M. Russell Ballard “Beware of False Prophets and False Teachers,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 63.
9. Hugh Nibley *The World and the Prophets*, pp. 254-5
10. Elder John Wells (*Conference Report*, Apr. 1925, p. 88
11. Stephen E. Robinson *Following Christ* p. 77
12. President Thomas S. Monson (*Live the Good Life*, p. 124 as taken from *The Mount and the Master*, by Robert E. Wells, p. 211-12)
13. James E. Talmage (*Jesus the Christ*, 229-30)

**Matthew 7:15-20 False Prophets:**

“When we think of false prophets and false teachers, we tend to think of those who espouse an obviously false doctrine or presume to have authority to teach the true gospel of Christ according to their own interpretation. We often assume that such individuals are associated with small radical groups on the fringes of society. However, I reiterate: there are false prophets and false teachers who have or at least claim to have membership in the Church. There are those who, without authority, claim Church endorsement to their products and practices. Beware of such. ...

“... Beware of those who speak and publish in opposition to God’s true prophets and who actively proselyte others with reckless disregard for the eternal well-being of those whom they seduce” Elder M. Russell Ballard (“Beware of False Prophets and False Teachers,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 62–63).

**Matthew 7:21 Conversion:**

“The conversion [Jesus] required for those who would enter the kingdom of heaven (see Matt. 18:3) was far more than just being converted to testify to the truthfulness of the gospel. To testify is to *know* and to *declare*. The gospel challenges us to be ‘converted,’ which requires us to *do* and to *become*. If any of us relies solely upon our knowledge and testimony of the gospel, we are in the same position as the blessed but still unfinished Apostles whom Jesus challenged to be ‘converted’ [see Luke 22:32]” Elder Richard G. Scott (“The Challenge to Become,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 33).

**Matthew 7:21-23** For the lazy Latter-day saint, the passage could read, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, are we not members of thy kingdom, and have we not sent our children to Church and paid some fast offerings?"

For the abusive husbands and fathers, "Lord, Lord, are we not holders of thy priesthood, and did we not hold responsible positions in thy kingdom, and attend church regularly."

For the prideful, "Lord, Lord, have I not done as well as the rest of my ward, and do not my worldly attainments demonstrate my ability, and my riches demonstrate thy good pleasure?"

For all these people, the answer may well be, 'I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.' Alma asks, 'do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can lie unto the Lord in that day, and say-Lord, our works have been righteous works upon the face of the earth-and that he will save you?...Behold, my brethren, do ye suppose that such an one can have a place to sit down in the kingdom of God, with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob, and also all the holy prophets, whose garments are cleansed and are spotless, pure and white? I say unto you, Nay' (Alma 5:17, 24-25). [gospeldoctrine.com](http://gospeldoctrine.com)

**Matthew 7:21-23**

"None would want to hear the Lord speak such disappointing words. That is why we need to do everything in our power to be certain our spiritual bonfire of testimony is burning brightly enough to keep the wolves of darkness away. We can always use more dry kindling. As the Apostle Paul taught, each of us has 'come short of the glory of God.' (Romans 3:23.) None of us has progressed so far in this life that we do not need to continually fortify our testimonies." Joseph B. Wirthlin (*Finding Peace in Our Lives*, p. 126)

**Matthew 7:24 Building a house upon the rock:**

"Every person builds a house of faith. We do so knowingly or unknowingly. And every builder soon learns that a good building with bad foundations is worse than useless; it is dangerous. As one Christian writer has observed, 'If the stability of buildings depends largely on their foundations, so does the stability of human lives. The search for personal security is a primal instinct, but many fail to find it today. Old familiar landmarks [will be] obliterated. Moral absolutes which were once thought to be eternal are being abandoned' (Stott 22). Thus our house of faith can be no more secure than the foundation upon which it is built. Foolish men build upon the shifting sands of ethics and the marshlands of human philosophies and doctrines. The wise build upon the rock of revelation, heeding carefully the living oracles, lest they be 'brought under condemnation ... and stumble and fall when the storms descend, and the winds blow, and the rains descend, and beat upon their house' (D&C 90:5). All that we do as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints must be built upon a foundation of faith and testimony and conversion. When external supports fail us, then our hearts must be riveted upon the things of the Spirit, those internal realities which provide the meaning, the perspective, and the sustenance for all else that matters in life." (Robert L. Millet, *Book of Mormon Symposium Series*, Helaman 3 - 3 Nephi 8, edited by PR Cheesman, MS Nyman, and CD Tate, Jr., 1988, pp. 26-8)

<b>Glossary Matthew 7</b>	
❖ What measure ye mete	The way you measure (or judge) things
❖ Rend	Tear or rip
❖ This is the law and the prophets	This is what the scriptures teach
❖ Strait	Narrow
❖ Ravening	Fierce, hungry
❖ Profess	Say
❖ Work iniquity	Do evil things
❖ Liken	Compare
❖ Founded	Built

**Matthew 7:1-2 Judging**  
 “There are two kinds of judging: final judgments, which we are forbidden to make, and intermediate judgments, which we are directed to make, but upon righteous principles. ...  
 “... Why did the Savior command that we not judge final judgments? I believe this commandment was given because we presume to make final judgments whenever we proclaim that any particular person is going to hell (or to heaven) for a particular act or as of a particular time. ...  
 “We all make judgments in choosing our friends, in choosing how we will spend our time and our money, and, of course, in choosing an eternal companion. Some of these intermediate judgments are surely among those the Savior referenced when He taught that ‘the weightier matters of the law’ include judgment (Matt. 23:23). ...  
 “In the intermediate judgments we must make, we should take care to judge righteously. We should seek the guidance of the Spirit in our decisions. We should limit our judgments to our own stewardships. Whenever possible we should refrain from judging people until we have an adequate knowledge of the facts. So far as possible, we should judge circumstances rather than people. In all our judgments we should apply righteous standards. And, in all of this we must remember the command to forgive” Elder Dallin H. Oaks (“‘Judge Not’ and Judging,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1999, 7, 9, 13).