

Judgement Day



'I have a vague memory of being about 6 years old when I attempted to carry two pots of paint, from the room where my parents had been decorating in an attempt to help put them away. Across the new carpet in the hall that was only a week old. And then dropping both pots and watching the paint pour out. I don't remember my parents saying much to me ... in some ways that was worse. However, at least my intentions were good. How much of a defence that could be, I don't know.

This week sees us focus on the theme of judgement [or Judgement Day]. As Christians, we believe that we are responsible for our thoughts and actions. On a simple basis, an act is made up of 3 key parts. There is the initial intention. Then the act itself. And finally the outcome. Now which of these is the most important is always up for debate amongst the different Christian denominations. Which of these we will be judged on by God ... or even by others in our daily lives ... I have no idea. And how we judge should others will also be interesting.

But I like Pope Francis' advice and message on this: 'stop judging, start resolving'. In a previous career, my old Sergeant used to tell me there were two types of people in the world. I can't use the words he did to describe them, so let's just call them 'bad guys' and 'good guys' The 'bad guys' were them ones that told you when you were doing something wrong. The 'good guys' were the ones that told you that you were doing something wrong and then tell you how to fix it. Who would have thought that Pope Francis and my old Sergeant were singing off the same hymn sheet! Perhaps it should change 'Judgement Day' to 'Resolve-ment Day'.

[Mr Doust]

Scripture:

“Daniel, at that time Michael, the great prince, will stand up. (He is the one who protects your people.) There will be a time of much trouble But your people will be saved.

Everyone whose name is written in God’s book will be saved. Many people who have already died will live again. Some of them will wake up to have life forever. But some will wake up to find shame and disgrace forever. The wise people will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever.”

Pope Francis:

‘Do not judge anyone: the only judge is the Lord. The suggestion is: be quiet. And if I have to say something to someone, I tell only him or her, but not the whole neighbourhood; or I say it only to that person or to those people who can remedy the situation.’

Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, you number our hairs and determine our days; you hang the stars and feed the sparrows; you open doors no one can shut and shut doors no one can open. Surely, we can trust you when the time comes for making big decisions, or for that matter, any decisions. We are in just such a season again, Father, and we know we are not alone. We will trust you for generous wisdom, straight paths and peaceful hearts, all for your glory. Amen.

