



Touching Lives
with James Merritt



SERMON SINGLES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

As God Sees Fit

Judges 21:25

INTRODUCTION

So often in our society today, the concept of “truth” is up for debate. What is right? What is wrong? What or who determines right from wrong? These are questions that people are constantly trying to answer. But the truth is, if you try to make right and wrong a matter of human choice, human reason, or human decision, you are out on a limb that will break every time. One of two things is true. Either what is right is right in our eyes or what is right is right in God’s eyes. With this in mind, I want to give you three reasons why only with God can you have morality. Only with God can you know what is right and what is wrong, and only with God can you tell the difference.

KEY POINTS

1. There Are Moral Values We Should Defend

To say there are absolute rights and absolute wrongs means that someone with universal authority declares it to be right or wrong regardless of what other people may think. If there is no God, morality is just a matter of opinion. If I can never tell you what is right and you can never tell me what is wrong, then that means there can be no final, ultimate, objective right or wrong. That leaves us to do what is right in our own eyes.

But God has given us what is right and what is wrong. These truths are found in His commandments. Psalm 119: 160 puts it this way: *“The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”* God tells us what we can and should do, and He tells us what we can’t and shouldn’t do. And it’s these clear truths and commandments that we should defend as followers of Jesus.

2. There Are Moral Virtues We Should Demonstrate

Jesus said that the moral virtues we should live by can be summed up in one word that should flow in two directions. The word is “love,” and it should flow vertically (we should love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, and strength) and it should flow horizontally (we should love our neighbor as ourselves.) When you follow those two commandments, you will find loyalty, honesty, love, generosity, and sacrifice. In other words, you will find what is good and what is right.

NOTES

As God Sees Fit

Judges 21:25

3. There Is A Moral Vision We Should Declare

If there is such a thing as right and wrong, only with God will people be held morally accountable for their actions. Only with God can we know that evil and wrong will be punished and goodness and righteousness will be rewarded. Our God is a just God, and that is a truth we need to be willing to share with others. Jesus could come back any day now, and we need to be mindful of the opportunities we're given to share the hope of the gospel with others and declare the truth to them.

NOTES

As God Sees Fit

Judges 21:25

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How would you define right and wrong in your own words?
2. How can you show vertical love this week?
3. How can you show horizontal love this week?
