

Come and See: Mercy or Judgment

John 8: What's It Going to Be...

...Mercy or Judgment (1-11)

...Light or Darkness (12-20)

...Life or Death (21-30)

...Freedom or Bondage (31-47)

...Honor or Dishonor (48-59)

= Each is a "test" of
true or false religion!

What Will It Be... Mercy or Judgment? James 2:13

False Religion and Its Judgment

...hypocrisy is present

- not interested in just application of law
- intent not to honor law and help others, but to use the law to hurt others

...mercy is absent

- the most religious often the least merciful
- arrogance and condescension are the first cousins of self-righteous pride

...the brutality of law without love

- seek to expose and shame, not redeem
- utilitarian use of law and people

...the goal is manipulation, not ministry

- must use guilt, fear, shame, promise of punishment/reward, for their lies cannot stand on their own

True Religion and Its Mercy

...help is present

- Jesus is a caretaker of beings
- He puts Himself between us and our accusers - Ro 8:1,4

...mercy is present

- the most holy are the most merciful - Ro 2:4
- not giving others what they deserve - Mk 1:41

...the redemptive purpose of law in the hands of love - Ro 7:7; Ga 3:21-24

- law exposes so love can cover - I Pet 4:8
- truth is spoken because it is loving - Eph 4:15

...the goal is ministry, not manipulation

- Jesus didn't come to judge, but to save - Jo 3:17
- no one comes between the Savior and the sinner