

Minister's Message – April 2009

The Judge is Judged

It was such a little thing. It was so easy just to write someone else's name on the form so the penalty notice would go to them. If that person lived on the other side of the world all the better! If they were deceased even better! Who would ever find out? The judge had done it before and got away with it. So he did it again. But this time he was found out. Had he said sorry at this point we would not know about it today. But the sinful nature we are born with does not easily say 'sorry'. He kept on telling lies right into the court. The judge sentenced the judge for perjury, for lying to the court.

Had the judge gone to Sunday school he would have learnt 'be sure your sins will find you out'. His punishment is a reminder to us all of this truth. Children start to tell lies – it is part of original sin – and if they get away with it they can easily fall into the habit of lying. It is tragic to hear children telling blatant lies and doing so habitually. If not corrected they grow up telling lies and may end up like this judge. Many excuse 'little' lies but we have seen the danger of even 'little' lies.

Had the judge gone to Sunday school he would also have learnt that there is a God in heaven who sees all that we do and say – and write. This God will one day judge us all. *We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ* (II Corinthians 5:10). *It is appointed for men to die once and after this face the judgment* (Hebrews 9:27). Even if we are clever enough to escape the judgment of men, we will not escape the judgment of Jesus.

Jesus will judge with utmost justice. Everyone knows that telling lies is a sin just as the judge knew. He is suffering for his sin now. We will all suffer in the world to come for our sin. We will be judged according to what we have done. We will be condemned even for one sin (James 2:10). Does this sound harsh? Remember Jesus is the holy Son of God. Jesus is in heaven where there is no sin.

There is some good news for you and for the judge now in prison. The Jesus who judges us all is the same Jesus who died for those who believe in him. He died to take away our sin. He took the penalty for our sin. When you repent of your sin Jesus forgives you. *There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Romans 8:1). You face the judgment of Jesus when you die. Now is the time to set things right with the Judge. Repent of your sin and believe in Jesus and you will not be condemned for eternity but will live forever in the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon, D.D.