

Pastor Ron Case  
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## **“Differentiate”**

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*

### **Popularity & Pain**

**Luke 19:36-38, 41-42** – (36) “And as [Jesus] rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. (37) As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, (38) saying, ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ (41) And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, (42) saying, ‘Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’”

### **Prayer & Profits**

**Luke 19:45-46** – (45) “And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, (46) saying to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.’”

### **Predator & Peacemaker**

**Luke 23:22-25** – (22) “A third time [Pilate] said to them, ‘Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.’ (23) But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. (24) So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. (25) He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.”

### **Pride & Penitence**

**Luke 23:39-43** – (39) “One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, ‘Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!’ (40) But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ (42) And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ (43) And he said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’”

**Key Point: The Wise Differentiate the Ways of God & Men**

**Differentiators:**

**(1) Do not Assume God's Approval**

“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” (Luke 16:15)

**(2) Are wary of the First Witness**

“The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.” (Proverbs 18:17)

**(3) Study to Sort**

“for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 5:13-14)

**Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Do I take all of life as one, or do I differentiate by contemplating God's ways? (Psalm 25:4-5)

Where does humanistic thinking lead to? (Prov. 14:12, 16:25)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)