26-1122a Transcript

26-1122a - *Examine Who?, Mike Mathis*

Bible Readers: John Kessler and Roger Raines

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Examine Who?

Scripture Readings

1st Reader (0:04 - 0:27): John Kessler **Acts 20:28**: (0:04) Good morning. The first scripture reading this morning is from the book of Acts chapter 20, (0:09) verse 28. And I'm reading the New King James. Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all (0:16) the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, (0:24) which he has purchased with his own blood. Amen. (0:27)	**2nd Reader** (0:32 - 1:04): Roger Raines **1 Corinthians 11:27-28**: (0:32) Good morning. I'll be reading from the first book of Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 27 and 28. Therefore, who eats the bread or drinks (0:45) the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. (0:53) For the man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (1:02) This concludes this reading. (1:04)

Transcript (0:04 - 28:39), Preacher: Mike Mathis

Mike (sermon – "Examine Who?"): (1:09) Good morning. The lesson for this morning is entitled as a question. (1:17) Examine who? Now the title may be something that you're wondering about, but it comes after (1:29) reading several issues of one of the Brotherhood papers. I know that some of the older ones will (1:40) remember the periodical called Contending for the Faith. And now we have today a continuation of that (1:54) periodical. But it's only four pages long. I get, I receive it online, and when they send it online, (2:13) the lesson that I present comes as a result of a few articles that I've read in this paper.

(2:31) It seems as if it was like last month when I received the issue for last month. The (2:55) lesson was on the purity of doctrine, which was a good lesson. Now within that lesson, (3:13) you saw that as it seems like every time that one particular subject (3:21) was mentioned, connected with it was the name of a brother that is well known in the Brotherhood. (3:37) If people are familiar with the Apologetics Press, this one particular brother, (3:59) brought up the notion that elders should be re-evaluated. Now when that was brought up, (4:16) that was an immense battle that was brought up on account of the unscripturalness (4:30) of re-evaluating elders. That was unscriptural.

(4:46) And, you know, the one thing that is very (4:55) obvious is that we can see someone else's mistakes much better than we can see (5:13) self's faults. Oh yeah, we're brothers so-and-so, sister so-and-so, we've done this, done that, (5:27) but did you see what they did? It's difficult for self to recognize own faults.

(5:43) The Bible reading this morning is telling us and or self to pay attention to oneself inwardly. (5:58) And you know I had a lot of that on the job. Now (6:09) there was one lady that was line

leader, but she acted like she was plant manager. (6:25) And then after she left, I don't know what the reason is, but she left and then I was placed (6:38) as line leader in her place. And then somebody was pointing to some other person, (6:56) they were doing the job, the job that they were given to do, they were doing it. And then (7:08) others would say, well what about, you know, …

(7:19) So after I was a little bit perturbed that I (7:29) been shown about somebody else, what somebody else was doing or not doing, (7:38) and I spoke to everyone on that line and I told them, I said don't (7:52) pay any attention to other people and what they're doing. We've got the department heads, (8:03) we've got the boss man, the one who owns that organization around, and if he disapproves (8:18) of what we're doing, he would let us know, they would let us know. And if that meant (8:29) that our lack of whatever we're doing or something we should not be doing is enough (8:42) to have us terminated, we would be terminated.

(8:47) I told them, look at the name of the person (8:56) that appears on your paycheck, the name of the person whose paycheck you received. (9:13) Undoubtedly, naturally, it should have, if I was given a paycheck, it should have my name on it. (9:27) And if I did, if I was unhappy with what I made, the amount I received, (9:39) there was something that I needed to do, maybe go check. And if I needed to, (9:47) and they told me that I needed to straighten things up, okay, I needed to straighten it up.

(10:01) Then the first scripture that was read in your hearing this morning shows the overseers/elders, (10:13) which all came together at Miletus. And he was instructing these elders, (10:27) and he told these elders, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit (10:45) has made you overseers, (10:48) to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.

(10:59) He was saying that there was a lot of money (11:06) and people who were saying that the King James Version, the New King James Version, (11:18) other versions that come along, that the translators are the ones that gave the elders (11:33) authority. They really don't have. And their statement is, they are examples. (11:48) I agree with that. They are examples. In the past, it was argued that elders were just like (12:00) anyone else, with as much authority as anyone else. But they really are not reading, (12:15) I mean, they are not reading this verse, and also in 1 Peter 5, 1 through 5.

(12:32) I will get to 1 Peter in just one minute. In this verse, it says, among which the Holy Spirit (12:50) has made you overseers. That is not the translators that are giving them authority. (13:04) That is the Holy Spirit. How did the Holy Spirit give them authority, or make them overseers? (13:18) If they are overseers, they have some authority. But it's not the translators that gives them (13:32) the authority. It's the Holy Spirit.

(13:36) Now, how did the Holy Spirit make them overseers? (13:45) In 1 Timothy 3, 1 through 7, and Titus 1, 7 through 9, there are a list of qualifications (14:02) that are given for bishops or elders. Bishops, elders are the same people. There are qualifications (14:19) there for men to meet these qualifications if they are desiring that office. And if these (14:34) qualifications that are listed, and let me say again, and this is what Steve in the Bible class (14:48) was emphasizing, this book is the product of the Holy Spirit. He's a member of the Godhead. (15:10) God the Father is a member of the Godhead. Jesus, God's only begotten Son, is a member of the (15:22) Godhead. And so is the Holy Spirit.

(15:27) But the Holy Spirit doesn't speak on His own. He tells (15:33) us what the Father and the Son both speak to Him and tell Him to say. And what He says (15:49) in this book is, God-breathed. Now, I know that we have the word inspiration in there. (16:08) Now that word can mean different than God-breathed, but that word inspiration comes from a word (16:21) that means God-breathed. So if it's God-breathed, then it comes from God. The Holy Spirit is God, (16:34) is in the Godhead. And so it is the Holy Spirit then that has made them overseers. (16:47) Now how can they oversee something if they're not made overseers? And as I said, (17:00) this book is a product of the Holy Spirit, and we need to listen to it.

(17:10) Now let's go to 1 Peter. I'm going to read verses 1 through 5. (17:24) 1 Peter 5, 1 through 5, (17:38) by those who were against elders having authority, some authority. They don't have (17:52) all authority, but they have authority.

(18:02) Peter says in verse 1, (18:07) the elders who are among you I exhort. I, who am a fellow elder, and who better to instruct (18:20) an elder than another elder. Not only is Peter here an apostle, he's an elder here, (18:40) and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed. (18:57) Shepherd of the flock of God, which is among you, serving as overseers, (19:07) not by compulsion, but willingly. Not for dishonest gain, but eagerly. (19:18) Not as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

(19:31) That's the reason I agreed with being examples. But notice, they have been made overseers. (19:42) They are overseers. They should serve as examples. (19:51) And when the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade (20:00) away. Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.

(20:14) Now, if they don't (20:16) like what that says, then they need to read what comes next, and it's in the same verse. (20:27) Yes. Now, let's listen to it. All of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with (20:42) humility. For God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Now, I want you to listen (20:53) to that last part. Yes. Now, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with (21:10) humility. Okay.

(21:15) Well, we don't have elders now, but some of us will submit to another. (21:38) You know, I'm glad that it doesn't take very much to ask someone of the number (21:49) of an occasion comes to fulfill a duty if someone is not here.

(22:01) Now, let's go to 1 Corinthians 11, verses 27 and 28. (22:15) Now, these verses deal as we are partaking of the Lord's Supper that we took care of earlier. (22:44) And he's instructing these Corinthian brethren how to partake of the Lord's Supper.

(22:57) Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner (23:08) will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. Now, someone may mistake unworthy manner, (23:25) unworthy here, to mean I'm not worthy. None of us are worthy if we really look at it (23:43) and look at the problem that the Corinthian brethren were having. (23:52) Well, the way they were partaking of the Lord's Supper, (23:58) they couldn't call it the Lord's Supper. It was reduced to a common meal.

(24:06) And if people were, some of them would pay attention to what the context is talking about, (24:17) they wouldn't have a very big problem with one of the things that it says here. (24:28) That when he says, for the way they were eating the Lord's Supper, (24:41) they were eating, for in

eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others. (24:50) And one is hungry and another is drunk. (24:57) See how they reduced the Lord's Supper here, what they made the Lord's Supper to be?

(25:11) And then he asked this, what? Do you not have houses to eat or drink in? (25:20) Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? (25:27) What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

(25:35) Well, they take this one verse, or do you despise this church of God and shame them? (25:48) What? Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? To imply you're not supposed to eat (25:57) in the church building. In other words, there are those that would be against (26:10) having a potluck supper downstairs after we're done worship service up here. (26:23) We call them antis. But again, they need to understand that he's talking about the Lord's (26:33) Supper. They were eating ahead of others.

(26:39) And let me get on to that potluck supper (26:48) that we're supposed to have the first Sunday in December. Suppose that one of us went down and (27:05) got on a plate before everybody else went down there. We couldn't call that a fellowship (27:15) dinner or whatever you want to call it. We're getting ahead of people. (27:27) He's talking about the Lord's Supper here, how they misused it.

(27:32) And then he reminded them (27:37) how that he received this from the Lord, from Jesus. There was a time that he said that, (27:50) I got my information, my teaching from Christ, that he didn't meet with the other apostles, (28:05) that his doctrine came from the Lord. For he said, I received from the Lord that which I also (28:17) deliver to you, that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread. And (28:26) when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, take it. This is my body, which is broken for you. (28:35) Do this in remembrance of me. In the same manner, he also took the cup after supper, saying, (28:46) this cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do as you drink it in remembrance of me. (28:58) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till he comes, (29:12) which is an influence to his resurrection, that he was resurrected, he's living.

(29:23) And "Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner" — (29:34) and that's what they were doing. They were getting ahead of people and they were taking, (29:44) some of them were filled, some of them were filled with the cup. (29:58) They weren't waiting on everybody to meet together. But let a man examine himself.

(30:14) Now, so in other words, if we're going to take of the Lord's supper, (30:24) we need to focus on the fact that he died for me. He died for me. Yes, he died for you. (30:47) But anyway, individually, think what that means for you. Think what it means for me. (30:58) We examine so that a man examine himself and so that him eat of the bread and drink (31:10) of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner, eats and drinks judgment to himself, (31:21) not discerning the Lord's body.

(31:26) And while we are taking of the bread, (31:32) he sacrificed his life for each one of us, but not only for us, but for those out in the world. (31:45) He died for those that are even out there. And what would I be if it were not for his sacrifice? (31:57) What would I be if I was not cleansed in his blood? That's what's keeping me cleansed from all sin.

(32:22) Now, 2 Corinthians 13, in chapter 13 of 2 Corinthians, we have in verse 5. (32:44) Now, this is not necessarily, this isn't talking about the Lord's supper. This is, (32:55) he's talking about other things. Not in verse 5, he said, examine yourselves as to whether you (33:06) are in the faith. Test yourselves. That doesn't mean that I'm thinking about brothers (33:23) or sisters, so-and-so. I'm thinking about what I'm doing. Not what he's doing or she's doing. (33:38) Examine. He's telling them to examine yourselves collectively and individually. We are to examine (33:50) self. Test self. Whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. (34:04) Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless, indeed, you are disqualified. (34:22) If we're disqualified, we're not with him.

(34:31) And then we, in conclusion, (34:40) and I'm going to finish with this scripture text in Galatians 6, beginning in verse 1. (34:58) It says, Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, (35:11) restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted. (35:25) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be (35:36) something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

(35:42) We need to take care by one another's burdens. (35:51) And yes, I know. I know this. We're in our employment. And there's someone that's slacking (36:02) off. And that will mean I'm going to have to bear the burden that that person should be bearing. (36:17) But still, yes, I need to consider myself not to be like that person over there. (36:26) Go ahead and do the work that was handed to you.

(36:34) Now let's look at verse 4. "But let each one examine his own work, (36:55) and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Okay, so somebody else is not (37:09) doing what they're supposed to do, which means other people's going to have to bear the load. (37:21) But again, I must bear in mind that when I come face to face with God, (37:29) God isn't going to judge me on the basis of what someone else did or didn't do. (37:39) I'm going to be judged according to what I do or don't do. What I do, whether it is good or bad, (37:51) I will be judged according to that, not what somebody else has done or what I've done.

(38:05) So I need to keep in mind that even though somebody else may not be doing their job, (38:16) may not be doing what they ought to do, I'm going to tell you something (38:28) that there was one person that told me I made him look bad. (38:37) I said, no, I'm not making you look bad. That's all on you. If you're not doing what you're (38:50) supposed to be doing, you're making your own self look bad. We've got somebody that's going to look (39:04) at us. We're going to have our supervisor. We're going to have the boss man. He's going to see what (39:21) whoever is the department head, they're going to see. They see what we're doing. They see (39:30) how we do things because I made an effort to do what I'm told to do. It might not have been (39:45) exactly perfect, but I at least tried. I made someone else look bad. Well, again, (40:03) you've got to consider the fact that each one of us is going to be judged on what each one of us, (40:14) each one does. You're not going to be judged on the basis of what I did or didn't do. It's what (40:28) you did or not, and accordingly.

(40:37) So the thought is we need to be careful. (40:51) We might see another doing something wrong. We need to restore such a one, but (41:03) do it in gentleness, and then consider my own self or consider all self (41:15) because I could be just as bad and might be, but let's just think about this. (41:31) Christ made the sacrifice for each one of us. He died while we were still ungodly sinners. (41:49) He died for those that are outside, out in the world. He died for them, and yes, (42:07) they need to know that Jesus died for them, that they could receive (42:16) his blessings if they turn to him and come to him. (42:24) All the refreshing water of life that they could have is pure because it

comes from the pure God, (42:38) the source is pure. It is unmixed by man.

(42:51) So if there's anyone here that (42:54) needs to respond to the gospel invitation in any way to make themselves a part of (43:05) what Jesus wants them, you to be, why not answer that call? Why not come (43:18) repenting of your sins, confessing your faith in Jesus as the son of God who died for you, (43:31) who became the perfect sacrifice for you, and who can cleanse your sins when you (43:41) are buried with him in baptism. He can wash away your sins, your past sins, and he can also, (43:55) you have the promise that as you go through life and you walk in the life that he is in the life, (44:04) we can have fellowship with one another. We can also have fellowship with him (44:14) who cleanses us from all sin.

(44:19) This is something that some people need to be reminded of (44:25) because they got the notion that you go out, no matter how you commit sin, you're a doer. (44:43) Not exactly. If you're actually walking in the life, his blood cleanses you, (44:56) continually cleanses you from all sin. Notice that. And if there are those of us that need to (45:12) come back to God, if we've named the name of Christ and we have become, what we say, (45:26) departed from him, disqualified, we can come back, be restored. (45:35) We can have the church pray for us that God will take us back. He is faithful and just, (45:45) but take us back. We need to realize that it is Jesus (45:57) who is the perfect sacrifice, who lives perfectly without blemish, (46:08) and it is his blood that can cleanse us from all sin.

(46:15) So why not come if you need to, (46:18) if you are subject to the gospel in any way? Why not come and accept (46:28) the answer that God wants you to answer? Why not come to him now while we stand and sing? (46:38)