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"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)

Cookies, Judgment, & Mercy

by Steve Higginbotham

The story is told of a lady who was waiting at the airport terminal for her plane to begin boarding. In an effort to kill some time, she bought a newspaper and some cookies from the airport snack shop. After sitting down and reading her newspaper, she caught out of the corner of her eye, a man next to her, eating some cookies. Taking a closer look, she saw that her package of cookies had been opened and the man was eating her cookies! The lady just couldn't believe that the man would have such nerve as to eat her cookies.

So that she wouldn't lose all of her cookies to the man, she slowly reached over, took a cookie, and ate one herself. To her amazement, the man continued to eat more cookies. Getting more and more irritated, the woman removed all but one cookie from the package and ate them.

At that point, the man reached down and took the last cookie. Before eating it though, he broke it in half and offered half of it to the lady. Well, this infuriated the lady, so she grabbed her purse and stomped off to sit elsewhere while waiting for her flight.

Finally, she boarded the plane and reached into her purse to get a small mirror when, to her surprise, she found that in her purse was her unopened package of cookies. You see, the man sitting next to her wasn't eating her cookies - her cookies were in her purse. She had been eating his cookies!

Sometimes, when we judge or condemn others, we end up judging or condemning ourselves. Have you ever been too quick to pass judgment on another? When we do that, we put ourselves in a precarious and often embarrassing position. Check out all the facts, ask questions, listen carefully, and give people the benefit of the doubt. And most of all, be ever thankful that there is one who loves mercy more than judgment, and let's do our very best to be more like him in this regard.