

Reaction to Tiger Woods' Admission

by Wayne Goff

It is interesting to watch the world's reaction to the statement made by Tiger Woods this past Friday. I would have expected almost universal acceptance by people in general because our society seems to be rather forgiving and merciful. So I was more than shocked to hear one sports commentator, Stephen A. Smith, assess his speech as "weak," "fake," "not sincere" and "pretty sad." He claimed that Tiger said all the right things about his wife and children, but he didn't like the fact that Tiger read a prepared speech, had all those "pregnant pauses" as he looked into the camera and said "I'm sorry."

Personally, I think Smith is just stating the media party line and condemning Tiger because he had the audacity to make his statement in a meeting closed to most of the media. Of course, I think the nation's media are a bunch of self-deluded, self-proclaimed "prima donna's" who think they have a right to excoriate Mr. Woods publicly. They missed their opportunity for the spotlight, so they were pretty angry. I think Tiger Woods had the right to do what he wanted to in this announcement. It was about him and not them. But back to my point.

If you were in the shoes of Tiger Woods, how would you want people to judge you? I imagine most of us would like a little mercy and forgiveness. That's not to say that there shouldn't be consequences. There should be and there will be consequences. But Jesus said to us: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you" Matthew 7:1-2. Notice that Jesus is not forbidding judging, as some would suggest. But rather is He teaching us to judge others with the same kind of judgment that we would judge ourselves! Too often we have the attitude that your sins are big while my sins are little. Jesus warned against that kind of thinking and judging. One commentator wondered aloud how many sports writing "closet adulterers" were publicly condemning Tiger! I wonder that, too.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" Matthew 5:7. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" Matthew 6:12.

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