



# Judgement?

Whose fault was the flooding? Was it the Environment Agency or Lord Smith? The individuals who didn't do enough, or the Lord God?

### *What would you say?*

When things go wrong we always tend to look for a scape-goat. If only people had dredged. If only there had been more sandbags. If only the sea defences had been better.

### *Why me?*

That's a frequent question when we suffer. And if God features anywhere in your understanding, you ask why He has allowed it.

### *Predictable*

The country-wise inhabitants of the Somerset Levels knew they had it coming; it was as if the judgement of God was hanging over them because of the lack of dredging.

### *Did they deserve it?*

Someone said to me recently that they thought this sort of disaster was God's

punishment on people for being materialistic and ignoring God. I'm not entirely convinced that we can assume that—I'm sure we could find some people who have been flooded out who love God and use what He gives them wisely. And Jesus made it clear that not all suffering is a direct result of that person's sin: in fact, he said that one man had been born blind just so that people would recognise Jesus

as God's Son when he gave him sight.

### *Learn from experience*

I am sure however that whatever happens to us, God does want us to learn from the experience, and the most important thing to learn in any situation is to trust God.

Jesus told a story about a man who built a house on sand, and when the rain and floods came, it fell with a great crash. The person who builds on the rock, whose house survives the storm, he said, is the one who builds his life on Jesus and his words. Sometimes we may need to hear his judgement on our decisions, sometimes we need to hang on to his promises in the storm.



Margaret Hobbs is from  
St Thomas's Church, Oakwood  
[www.st-toms.org.uk](http://www.st-toms.org.uk)

