



JUDGING OTHERS

Matt VanCleave
June 26, 2022

GROUP ICE BREAKER

Share about a recent fun summer experience.

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will memorise Philippians 4:6-7.
- I will pray about what's going on inside me.
- I will believe God's desire for me is peace.
- I will see worry as a cue for me to give it to God.
- I will live like I'm under God's care and control.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

This week we learned what Jesus taught about judging from Matthew 7:1-2. We're often quick to see the problems, faults, shortcomings, and screw-ups in other people. We're slow to see them in our own life. The message was pretty simple this week. Jesus said, "Do not judge," and he gave no loopholes. Jesus' mission was to overthrow the spirit of judgment and condemnation, and to bring acceptance to all of humanity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:1-2

Jesus is saying that in the kingdom of God there is zero tolerance for judging others.

What are some examples of Jesus offering acceptance when it would have been culturally acceptable to be judgmental?

What groups of people do Christians tend to be judgmental toward in our day? How would Jesus respond to those people if he were in our place?

2. Jesus is calling his followers to be the least judgmental people on the face of the planet. How are you doing at being nonjudgmental? Who do you tend to judge? Roommate? Family member? Neighbor? Coworker?
3. Matt explained that the judgmentalism Jesus forbids is about condemning and rejecting. It's about superiority and the pleasure that comes with expressing contempt.
Share about an experience when you were judged by someone and how that felt.



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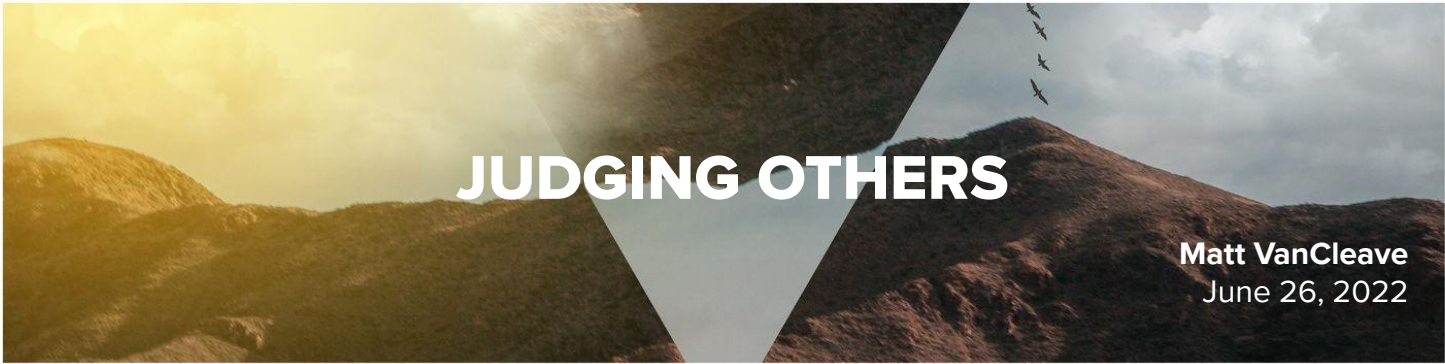
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

3. Matt mentioned the difference between tragedy and modern journalism. In tragedy the audience identifies with the tragic central character. They have empathy and experience a kind of humility about themselves because they think, “That could be me.” In modern journalism, it's the other way around. We're encouraged to be arrogant, to have contempt for those who fall. The posture is, “Can you believe how stupid that politician, movie star, CEO, or celebrity was?” We're trained in our world to think, “Can you believe how stupid they are? I would never do that.” And Jesus is inviting us to move from the kingdom of this earth into the reality of the kingdom of God where we simply lay aside judging, condemning, superiority, and blaming. What are some practical things you can do this week to live in the kingdom of God when it comes to judging?
4. Read Matthew 7:1-2 again, focusing on verse 2.
Jesus is basically saying judge others as you would have them judge you. How would you like to be judged by others?
Matt asked you to imagine carrying a bucket and a thimble. Who do you find it easy to give a bucket full of mercy to? Who gets only a thimble?
5. A question often asked is, “How then do I stand up for what's right without being self-righteous?” The wisdom from Dallas Willard is — “Offer gentle noncooperation with evil.”
Explain what gentle noncooperation with evil looks like in your neighborhood, home or work environment.
6. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16
People often think holy means perfect, but a better definition is – set apart for the Lord's work. Given this definition and the call to be holy, how can you be holy this week when it comes to judging others?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will pray, “God, make me accepting in a world of condemnation.”
- I will ask God to replace judgment with acceptance.
- I will not hold other Christians to my standard of right and wrong when it's not supported in Scripture.
- I will guard myself from becoming legalistic in my assessment of others.



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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 7:1-2
- Luke 15:2
- Luke 11:39-46
- John 3:17
- Romans 8:1
- Luke 15:29-30

Prayer Requests

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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