

WEEK 11:

JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN COMMUNITY: LOVE & JUDGMENT

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 6:37-42

RELATED SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 7:5, Proverbs 12:1, Luke 17:1-4,
John 7:24, Romans 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:1-13,
2 Corinthians 2:5-8, James 4:11-12

“One cool judgment is worth a thousand hasty counsels. The thing to do is to supply light and not heat.”

- Woodrow Wilson

“What the gospel does is remove our ability to judge others harshly.”

- Matt Chandler

“If Satan ever laughs, it must be at hypocrites; they are the greatest dupes he has; they serve him better than any others, and receive no wages.”

- Charles Caleb Colton, Lacon

PERSONAL STUDY:

When in your life have you felt judged, slandered, or gossiped about? What kind of pain did it cause?

When in your life have you received helpful rebuke, instruction and/or correction? What were the differences between these moments and those that you perceived as damaging?

Read Luke 6:37-38. How do judgment, condemnation and forgiveness relate to each other? How do we know that Jesus isn't outright saying, “never use your judgment or make any judgments about people”? (Reference John 7:24.)

Read James 4:11-12 and Romans 2:1-11. How do James and Paul compare our judgment to God's judgment? What is the difference between assuming the position of judge and making judgments in regular, everyday life?

Read Luke 6:39-42. What does Jesus mean when He says to “first take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye”? How do you test your motives when you see sin in a brother's life?

Read John 7:24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-13 and 2 Corinthians 2:5-8. What is the purpose of judgment for Christians? What is the end goal for a person who is in sin? How does a pattern of confession and confrontation among God's people reflect God's love toward us?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Who are the most judgmental people you've interacted with in your life? What issues or types of people tend to bring out a judgmental attitude in you?



Read Luke 37-42. What is Jesus' overall point in this passage? How do we focus on our own sin first and fight against self-righteousness?

John Wesley developed a culture of accountability and self-critique where they asked these questions regularly:

- Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am?
- Am I self-conscious, self-pitying or self-justifying?
- Did the Bible live in me today? Do I give it time to speak to me? Am I enjoying prayer?
- When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?
- Do I pray about the money I spend?
- How do I spend my spare time?
- Am I proud? Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
- Do I grumble or complain constantly?
- Is Christ real to me?



Which of these should we begin asking ourselves on a regular basis? Are there any other questions we should add to the list?

Read John 7:24. Is it possible to truly love someone without helping them see their sin? What would a culture of love-motivated and helpful judgment look like for our community?

