

The Uncommon Kingdom: Judging

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Matthew 7:1-6

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Discussion and Reflection Guide

Culturally it is normal and acceptable to be a little bit judgy

If we let Jesus reign in our lives, we will lose our tendency to form strong negative opinions about others.

*What is the strangest judgmental opinion you've come across?

*Would you categorize yourself as judgmental?

Jesus warns us NOT to make pronouncements and declarations about others

Read and discuss Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV)

7 *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

*What are the distinctions between being discerning and declaring?

*What are we in effect believing about ourselves when we judge others? What desire does being judgmental feed in us?

*How do you see judgement coming back upon a person who makes declarations about someone?

Our souls are wired to notice what is wrong with others and to ignore what is wrong with us

Read and discuss Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

3 *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

*How have you seen this 'Fundamental Attribution Error' in your life?

*How does obsessing over other people's issues distract you from the real work God is calling you to do?

Throwing our judgements at people doesn't allow them to be received

Read and discuss Matthew 7:6 (NIV)

6 *"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

*What seems to be the caution Jesus gives in this verse?

*Does the understanding of this verse shift for you if the metaphor is not primarily about who the dogs and pigs are but what the sacred pearls are?

*Has judgement from someone about your sin ever caused a change in you? What causes change?

Jesus is pointing to self-examination and humility as the cure for judgement

The key shift in these verses is what we pay attention to.

- *Where do you need to shift your attention to yourself?
- *What is a plank that might be hard to see in your own eye?
- *What strategies do you have for self-examination?

Jesus never loses sight of the whole person

We need to force ourselves to see the story of the whole person.

- *Is there someone that you have formed strong opinions about? How can you see them as a whole person and not just a villain?
- *How has your judgement blinded you to something God is doing in your life?
- *What is the Spirit saying to you about judgement?