

TAKEAWAY

The Radical King

Transformation through the story of Jesus

JUDGING OTHERS

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we looked at what Jesus says about judging other people.

DISCUSS

1. How would you describe, in your own words, what our culture believes about judging others?
2. Why do you think judging others is seen as such a big problem?
3. How do you feel when you think someone is 'judging' you?

READ

Matthew 7:1-6

EXPLAIN

'Judging' is a word that covers a number of things, so it might be helpful to see different types of judgement:

Discerning judgement is when we humbly make value judgments about things (e.g. we might think it's wrong to tell lies, gossip about others etc.) It's impossible to live life without doing this – we all believe certain things are right or wrong.

Demeaning judgement is when we set ourselves up as the ultimate judge – we presume to know motives, we assume we know best, and we look down on people who do things differently.

DISCUSS

4. Where does Jesus talk about discerning judgement? Where does He talk about demeaning judgement? Why is it important to see the difference?

5. Why is it so important to acknowledge the log in your one eye before you approach a friend about the speck in theirs? (Note: as a parent, it's also interesting to think about this in terms of how we discipline children - how far are we honest with them about our own failings?)

6. How comfortable are you to 'remove the speck' from your friend's eye? How often do you find yourself doing this in real life?

7. Do you think we should look to 'remove the speck' from the eyes of those who don't follow Jesus? It's a tricky issue – some would say that we should only expect Christ-like behaviour from those who follow Him. Other would say it's important we speak the truth to anyone - seeking their good - even if they aren't Christians.



8. When Jesus talks about throwing pearls to pigs, He's encouraging us not to waste our nuggets of insight on those who consistently respond negatively. It's a waste of our energy. To do so means making a judgement call(!) How do you feel about this? Have you ever been in such a situation?

9. After looking at what Jesus teaches here, are you more confident of what God asks us to do in our relationships? How is it different from what our culture might suggest? Why is the way Jesus teaches better?

PRAY

...that we would be people who are discerning and not demeaning in our relationships.

