

LIFE LESSONS - Making It Live

Pastor David Welsh | “Here comes the Judge” | Luke 6:37-42 | Feb. 4-5, 2012

How do you define judgment? According to Webster it is “*the process of forming an opinion or evaluation by discerning and comparing.*” Now define judgmental. Do words like hypercritical or faultfinding come to mind? Many people take the process of judgment and turn it into a judgmental process. They begin to point out every wrong in another person’s life and sentence them for it. As Christ followers that is not who God calls us to be. **Discuss:** Judgment is a means of correction to better a person; being judgmental is a means for condemning them and rebuking them. We are not to be self-righteous and prideful. **Read: Galatians 6:1.** Share if there is someone you need to help make things right.

Do you see someone else’s faults before you see your own? As Christians we are called to look inward at ourselves before gently calling others to repentance. **Read: Matthew 7:1-5.** What do you think it means? Understand we are called to bring others to Christ. **Discuss:** We are called to be merciful in our correction of sin and only after we have looked inward. **Read: Luke 6:36** and share how you can show mercy to someone this week.

What should the attitude of a believer be? As examples of Christ to the world we are called to be forgiving not condemning. God does not call us to condemn people for their sins, but to bring them to gentle correction. We are to do that with a compassionate and pure heart; not one full of judgmental opinions and accusations. We don’t know the heart of a person or their motives. **Discuss** how the heart is fragile like a glass house; if we throw rocks at it with judgmental remarks, we will shatter the opportunity to share Christ’s love at a very crucial moment. This will only cause that person to run from God instead of to him. **Read: John 8:1-11** **Discuss** Christ’s method of dealing with this woman.

Are you generous? Are you really generous? Are you self-serving or self-sacrificing? Are you condemning or encouraging? Share how we might hold on to wrongs. **Read: Luke 6:38.** Is Jesus talking about money here? **Discuss** how He might be talking about generosity that comes from the fruits of the spirit. Share how from a renewed mind in Christ you are able to share all of God’s blessings with others; the blessings of laughter, joy, hope, love, forgiveness. Displaying these fruits you allow God to use you to show others the way to Christ’s love, not through bitterness or judgmental thoughts.

Can and blind man lead a blind man? **Read: Luke 6:39.** What is Jesus saying here? **Discuss:** The believer must be repentant first, understanding the glorious and sacrificing generosity of Christ forgiveness, before “*they see the speck in their neighbors’ eye.*” Share how as sinners undeserving of grace, we can begin understand that grace is a gift. By dealing with our sins first, God will then give us the tools to help others flee from theirs.

Written by Misty Miller