

2022

JUDGE NOT

Week 2 Group Guide

Me before we



Overview

What's the best way to motivate change? In a world full of fights, how do we know which ones are holy and which ones are not? How do we balance the grace of God with the truth of his instructions? In this critical and timely series, we will investigate together these famous words of Jesus: "Judge not." Before we make commentary on culture, it is our holy responsibility to take inventory of ourselves. Me before we. Through practical and

accountable teaching, we will learn as a community what it means to suspend judgment and extend grace.

Week Two

It seems that in recent times church culture has come complete with a license to judge others around us. This can take place digitally, politically, and even in the lobby of our own building. Understanding the personal danger this poses for us requires a certain amount of mindfulness: the ability to observe why we think the way that we do. This week we will explore the unconscious steps we take from obedience into judgment and why this is a harder trap to avoid than we may realize.

Scripture: Matthew 26:6-13 (ESV)

Key Take Aways & Action Items:

- Mindfulness is key to growing past our cultural right to judge other people.
- Steps to obtaining the license to judge: observe the obstacle, double down on the doubts, hardship avoidance turns to hard opinions
- We can't conceal our mistakes behind the title "chosen."
- When we engage in petty fights, we miss the important ones.
- Our inability to learn lends itself to much harder lessons.

Group Guide Questions:

1. Do you have a word that doesn't "match your personality" or when you say it, it doesn't feel right? *For example, Austin used the word "Mindfulness" as his, mostly because he doesn't use it often and partly because the people around him who have used it just irritate him altogether.*
2. If you haven't answered last weeks question, take time to answer now: "What do you do when you know something is all your fault?"

3. The focus of today's talk was questioning when did we, as Christians, obtain the license to judge?
4. The steps to obtaining this license started in the beginning:
 - a. When we are observing the obstacle, we hesitate to "jump into the opportunity"
 - b. We double down on our doubts we have of ourselves and God
 - c. But then our hardship avoidance turns into hard opinions of "Why do they get to do this, and I don't?"

The question is- when is it that you begin to judge others? Judge God? Judge yourself?

5. Read the following scripture from the same accounts that were written by different people:
 - a. Matthew 26:8-9 esv
 - b. Mark 14:4-5 esv
 - c. Luke 7:39 esv
 - d. John 12:4-6 esv

What do you notice about each- similarities and/or differences about the account?
(on all the accounts, someone justified "judging someone else" instead of themselves)

6. ^ Like authors of these accounts, we cannot conceal our mistakes behind the title "chosen". We can't engage in the petty fights, we will miss the important ones. We still have the responsibility to be held accountable and to grow. Our inability to learn lends itself to much harder lessons. So the question is:
 - a. Are my beliefs a barrier to my obedience?
 - b. Are my beliefs ones I've found to match the life of Jesus?
 - c. Am I justifying my judgment of others because "Jesus would"?
 - d. When my instinct is to be critical, how can I remind myself there is a bigger fight I need to be ready for?
 - e. What can we learn from the women with the perfume? How can we learn sacrifice and humility from her?

Resources & Scripture:

- "mindfulness is like looking into the night up at the Milky Way and realizing that we are a part of something that appears to be very far away."-Anna Lembke

- When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Matthew 26:8-9 (ESV)
- There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. Mark 14:4-5 (ESV)
- Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” Luke 7:39 (ESV)
- But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. John 12: 4-6(ESV)
- Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Matthew 26:6-13 (ESV)