

Judging Others

Jesus tells the disciples gathered that it is important to really be more concerned about our own behavior rather than focusing on the behaviors of others. It is easy to look at other people and think negative thoughts about them or say things about them when we don't always know the whole story.

Jesus was talking about judging others in Luke 6: 37 – 38. People are not perfect and they make mistakes. In the world's eyes some mistakes are bigger than others. Robbing a bank is a biggy and telling a lie is a little thing. In God's eyes both are sins and he does not make one big and the other small. God expects us to repent of our sins no matter what they may be.

In this scripture Jesus is trying to get across the simple fact that if you think you are better than someone else, you should be careful because you might be the one who is too high and mighty. Remember the Pharisee in Luke 18? He bragged in front of everyone about how much money he was giving to the synagogue. He boasted and looked down on others. Can you imagine if people were judging him for his bragging and yet they did the same thing?

No, we need to be humble and not gossip or judge others.

Scripture: Luke 6: 37 – 38 ³⁷ *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Questions:

1. How many times have you looked at someone and had a thought about them that judges them?
2. Do you know that having all the information about someone or an issue surrounding them is more important than listening to others tell you what to think?
3. Does God place different levels on sin?
4. Do you share the things you do wrong with others or do you lock those thoughts in a personal box?
5. Should we share the things we do or think that are not good with our parents?

Next Steps:

Share your thoughts with your mother or father. You will feel better when you tell them the things you think about that are happy or sad or good or bad. They can join you in offering those confessions up to God. It will make you feel clean of heart.