

Lent 4: Who CAN we judge?

Discussion group questions

Luke 6:37-42

Leaders – choose carefully. Some questions pick up similar themes, **so work out what is best for your group.**

Introduction: Reflecting on Last Week

1. Last week, we looked at loving our enemies. How did you find that challenge? Did you take any practical steps to love someone difficult?
2. What did you learn from that experience? Did you notice any changes in them—or in yourself?
3. How does Jesus' teaching on loving enemies prepare us for today's passage about judgment?

1. The Principle – Do Not Judge

4. Jesus says, *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged.”* What do you think he means by this? How is this often misunderstood?
5. Can you think of times when you've been quick to judge someone? What was your attitude at the time?
6. Why is it easier to see the faults in others rather than in ourselves? How can we guard against a critical spirit?
7. What does Jesus mean when he says, *“With the measure you use, it will be measured to you”*? How does this affect the way we interact with others?

2. Illustration 1 – The Blind Leading the Blind

8. Jesus warns about *“the blind leading the blind.”* In what ways can judgmentalism blind us to the truth?
9. Have you ever been caught in a cycle of judgment and condemnation with someone? What happened?
10. Jesus calls us to follow him instead of judging others. What practical steps can we take to be more like Jesus in our relationships?
11. Think of a situation where you've seen someone break the cycle of judgment and criticism. How did it change things?

3. Illustration 2 – The Problem with Planks

12. Jesus contrasts a *speck* in someone else's eye with a *plank* in our own. Why do you think he uses such an exaggerated image?
13. What is the danger of correcting others without first examining our own hearts? Have you ever seen this happen?
14. Jesus doesn't say we should *never* correct others—only that we should examine ourselves first. How can we offer correction in a way that is humble and loving?
15. Chrysostom said, *“Correct him, but not as a foe... but as a physician providing medicines.”* What does this look like in real life?

Conclusion: Who CAN We Judge?

16. The sermon title asks, *“Who CAN we judge?”* How does Jesus answer this question?
17. Why is self-examination so crucial in our Christian life? What might change if we focused more on judging ourselves rather than others?
18. As we continue in Lent, how can we apply Jesus' teaching this week? Is there a specific area of your life where you need to remove a “plank”?

Dear Heavenly Father, as we reflect on your Word to us today, we ask that you help us to see ourselves and others through your eyes. May we be quick to forgive, slow to judge, and generous in our love towards those around us. Help us to remove the planks from our own eyes, that we might see clearly to serve and love others. We ask in Jesus' name, Amen