

Questions Jesus Asked E-Group Curriculum

Week 3: May 31, 2020

Speaker: BETH

Text: Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Matt 7:3)

Addressing: Judgment, shame... humility, confession

- At the heart of judgment is comparison. How old were you when you first became aware that comparisons were being made between people? Where did you land? *Popular, rich, poor, athletic, smart, artistic, musical, nerds, geeks*
- What are people looking for when making comparisons and judgments?
- *Relative worth and protection from shame.*
- Who do you personally tend to feel more judgmental toward - **believers** or **non-believers**? Why do you think that is?

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. **2** Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. **3** So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? **4** Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? **Romans 2**

4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. **Romans 14**

- Why is our judgement of one another suspect if not completely invalid? *Our sense of judgement is compromised by our own imperfections and skewed perceptions.*
- Whose judgement can we trust for matters of worth and shame? *God alone has right judgement.*
- What do we know about his judgement regarding worth and shame?
- *Our worth to God is unconditional, innate, intrinsic. His sacrifice takes away our shame when we lay it at his feet.*

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:9-10**

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **Ephesians 2:2-5**

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. **22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— **23** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. **Colossians 1:21-23**

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **John 3:16-17**

What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in convicting us of sin? How might that knowledge free us from the compulsion to judge others?

John 16:8 says of the Holy Spirit (or the Helper), "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." We can let the Holy Spirit do his job. Our job is to love.

Are you in the habit of regularly confessing your sin? Do you see the value in it? Confession is a better strategy for addressing shame than denial, relativistic morality or works righteousness.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:8-9**

- Can you relate at all to Beth's story about confession bringing freedom, how confessing her sin to her husband "disarmed" him and led to reconciliation? Is there an example in your life that you can point to that illustrates that truth?
- How might we cultivate humility without feeding shame?
- *Not so much about putting ourselves down but in elevating how we regard those around us. Remembering we are equally, infinitely valuable just like every other person who is also created in the image of God.*
- Is there anything you'd want to comment on in relation to Beth's question, Are you living like an orphan, or are you living like God's kid?