

Red Letter Living: Week 12

Truth in Tension: Judging and Discerning

Warming Up

1. When you think of the word 'judgemental', what comes to mind?
2. Why do you think we have a tendency to judge others, often more harshly than ourselves?
3. Share something you learned from Steve's message on Sunday, and describe how you will apply it practically.

Digging In

4. Read Matthew 7:1-6.
 - a. Share something that strikes you the most from this passage.
 - b. On Sunday Steve differentiated between judging and discerning. How would you explain the difference?
 - c. What is your reaction to vs. 2 when you consider your accountability before God?
 - d. Jesus uses hyperbole (exaggerated metaphor) when he refers to the 'log in your own eye'. What is the point he is trying to drive home by using this metaphor?
 - e. What do you think it means practically to 'take the log out of your own eye'?

- f. Following that act, Jesus then states you can 'take the speck out of your brother's eye'. How might correcting someone look different when the person correcting has dealt with their own issues?
- g. In the ancient world, dogs and pigs were despised for their uncleanness. Pearls, on the other hand, were highly valued and precious. How might you apply vs. 6 then within the context of this passage?

Living Out

5. Share with your group one thing you will commit to do beginning this week in response to what you've learned.
6. Conclude by reading aloud together the passage below:

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.

Galatians 6:1-5 NIV