

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

4. Read **Matthew 7:15-20**. In these verses, Jesus tells us that there IS a measure by which we can “judge” someone’s character - their actions! When do you think that is actually the loving thing to do?

5. In your opinion, what is the difference between reserving judgment and blind tolerance?

6. Are there any “PLANKS” that you need to work on in your own life? Has anyone confronted you in love - and you saw them as being judgmental?

7. Read **Matthew 7:24-27**. This is how Jesus finishes his teaching. Notice that the distinction between the wise and the foolish man is not about who HEARS the teachings of Jesus, but who OBEYS them. Why is that distinction so important?

8. As you reflect on the talk from Sunday, is there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or inspired you?

## MESSAGE NOTES

### VOICES // Week 9

#### 2 thoughts on judging others:

1. Jesus came to save us from our own \_\_\_\_\_!

*Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God.” **Luke 18:9-14***

2. Judging others is how I manage my \_\_\_\_\_.

*Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Matthew 7:1-2***

#### Ways that we judge others:

1. We elevate ourselves by \_\_\_\_\_ others.

2. We confuse \_\_\_\_\_ with identity.

3. We evaluate the \_\_\_\_\_ of one another.

*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? How can you say to your brother, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,” when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? **Matthew 7:3-4***

#### Withholding judgment is not the same as:

1. License to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Blind \_\_\_\_\_.

## MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

### **Making a judgment is loving if:**

**1. It begins with \_\_\_\_\_ my own heart.**

*You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. **Matthew 7:5***

**2. It is motivated by a desire for \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. **Matthew 7:6***

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of grace and truth. **John 1:14***

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**“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” *James 1:22***



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Most of our Groups are currently on break for the summer. If your Group is still meeting, you can use these questions to facilitate discussion with your Group. Or feel free to use them for your own personal study this week!

1. Is there a group of people who you naturally tend to judge? Why do you think it is so tempting for you to judge them?

2. Do you ever realized that you're comparing yourself to others in an effort to manage your own image? What do you see as the danger in that exercise?

3. Read **Romans 14:1-12**.

What stands out to you about these verses? Any observations?

What do these verses reveal about God?

What do these verses reveal about us as humans?

Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?