



Rock Solid

DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 7:1

This is an interesting passage for a number of reasons: It is one of the most quoted passages, primarily of unbelievers, when pushing back against culture. We often hear phrases like "Hey, don't judge me," or "Don't be judgmental!" It is also used a lot by believers who are living in a way that is not in line with what the Scripture teaches. If anyone points this out, they often respond with, "Don't judge me!" Christians are often accused of being judgmental when they are simply trying to lead a friend back to a better way, a way God has designed for all of us.

This is also an interesting text because a lot of us are being judgmental. We exist within a toxic culture and we throw this verse out, not listening to it, and improperly judging people that disagree with us.

What we need to do is understand what Jesus is saying. What does He mean when He says "do not judge?" Think of the courtroom. The judge looks at the defendant, hears the evidence, then decides guilt or innocence, and passes judgement. Jesus is saying 'don't put yourself in the position of judge; don't put yourself in the position to decide someone's guilt or innocence based on a standard that you yourself decide. There is only one person who is able to judge, and you are not it.' Only One who knows every story, every pain, every heart break, every struggle, and every sin. He is the only one who is qualified to judge.

We don't know the motivations of the heart. Leave that to God.

When have you been judged? Were you in line with scripture?
When have you judged someone? Did you know their heart?

DAY 2

READ MATTHEW 7:2-5

Why shouldn't we judge? Because you are not God. If you judge others, or pronounce a judgement on others, you will be held by God to that judgement. So often, we point the finger at others when we ourselves are guilty of the same. Jesus says don't do that: Don't pass judgement on a mean coworker when you are short with your spouse. Don't pass judgement on greedy people if you aren't generous yourself. Don't be quick to point out the wrongs in other peoples' lives and not address the wrongs in your own. That is hypocrisy.

Clearly Jesus says "don't judge," but the Bible is also clear that we are to fight sin in each other, impurity in the church, and injustices in the world. How does this work? If Jesus says "do not judge," does this mean when we see sin damaging our friend's marriage that we shouldn't address it? Does this mean we never fight against abortion, against racism, or against destruction of the family? Does this mean we never try to push back or help each other defeat sin in our lives, the church, and the world? Jesus says no! You must do these things, but not in a critical, judgmental kind of way.

When have you been judgmental and then realized you were guilty of the same judgement?
How do we fight sin in each other, the church, and the world without being judgmental?

DAY 3

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:3

There are things that have to happen in us to allow us to engage culture without being judgmental and hypocritical. We must consider others more important than ourselves. If you are always looking down on others, you will be judgmental. Ask yourself, "do I have to respond and if I do, how do I respond? Am I responding with love, kindness, and respect?" If we need to address things with others, how are we doing it? Do I look like Jesus?

It's not easy! How do you look at others who are doing things that you hate and consider them more important than you? Remember this: Your sin alone is enough to require the death of Jesus. If your sin was all there was, Jesus would still have to lay down His life for you to have hope. Jesus didn't just die to save white supremacists or Antifa. Jesus didn't just die to save abortionists or human traffickers. Jesus had to suffer and die for your pastor! Jesus had to die for you!

How do you respond to the statement that your sin alone is enough to require the death of Jesus?
How does it change the way you look at other's sin?

DAY 4

READ LUKE 18:13-14

Next, we must remember that before we challenge another person's sin, we first have to ask God to reveal our own sin and repent of it. Before! It is ok to take the speck out of your brother's eye, but before you do, you have to address the things in your life that are limiting your sight-remove the log from your own eye! For example, if you have an argument with your spouse and they say something that hurts you, hypocrisy is jumping in and letting them have it. Jesus says 'stop, evaluate your own heart. Is there sin in me, am I doing this to others, am I contributing to this argument?' Stop, confess, repent and turn from your sin. It is only then that you will be able to see the speck in the other's eye. It produces empathy. They may be a sinner, but you are too! We have to treat people the way we want to be treated.

Look at the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector. The pharisee says 'I thank you that I am better than him,' but the tax collector's prayer is 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' This is the heart Jesus is looking for in us. If we do not have that heart, we have no business engaging with others because we will do more harm than good. Consider others. Repent of your sin!

Spend time today asking God to reveal your sin and repenting of it.
Make this a daily practice along with your time in prayer and scripture.

DAY 5

READ JOHN 8:3-11

Through this whole week, we've been learning that we must engage like Jesus. We can't engage with people like the pharisees. In the scripture, the pharisees have caught a woman in adultery. The law said it could be punishable by death. They have drug her out of the city, picked up stones to kill her, and invited Jesus to participate. Jesus says, "Whichever one of you have never sinned, throw the first stone." They all walk away. Then Jesus engages the woman about her sin: "Where are your accusers? I see your sin, but I am not going to accuse or condemn you either but go and sin no more."

Both the Pharisees and Jesus engaged with this woman over her sin.
The Pharisees did it with rocks. Jesus did it with love and grace. Which one are you?
Are we called to fight injustice, fight impurity in the church, and oppose the killing of the unborn? Yes!
But do it like Jesus. The whole world is watching!

Which one are you?
How do you fight injustice like Jesus?
What injustices is He calling you to fight?

Do you have someone to remind you of your value and God's vision for you, to discover Jesus with, to walk with you during anxious times? Have you considered creating a DNA group- three people of your same gender, committed to meeting weekly to discover, nurture, and act on your relationship with Jesus, together?