

Merciful Judgment: A Field Guide

How to Judge without Being Judgmental (Part 2)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 6:37-42



Big Idea

Merciful Judgment is done slowly, prayerfully, and humbly.

Question #4: How Should We Mercifully Judge?

(1) Slowly

Our initial impulses are not always in line with the righteousness that God requires. God calls us to slow down before expressing our opinions. But why?

(1) Because of What We Don't Know—We don't know *others* as well as we like to think; we don't know *ourselves* as well as we like to think.

(2) Because of What We Do Know—God is slow to bring His judgment upon men. Though it is not for the same reasons I gave above. He is slow not because He lacks knowledge about others or about Himself. He knows all things truly, fully, perfectly. Rather, He is slow because He is gracious. And He's this way with us. How much more, then, ought we to be this way with one another?!

(2) Prayerfully

We don't first speak to the person about it, we speak to God. But why?

(1) Prayer Reminds Us of God's Place in the Process

(2) Prayer Connects Us to God's Heart for the Person—The next time you feel ready to bring up an issue with a person, commit yourself to saying a thousand words to God about it before you ever say one word to them. And I promise you, that one word, if you even still feel led to speak it, will have much more of God in it and much less of you!

(3) Humbly

By humility, I mean, quite simply, that whatever it is we feel important enough to address in another, we have this deep-seated conviction that we are cut from the same cloth as them and capable of the very same things. We are no better, even if we, at the moment, are freed from the things that entangle them.

The cross, before it puts us back together, utterly undoes us; before it lifts us, it lowers us; it leaves us confessing with Peter in Acts 15:11: "[W]e believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." Gentile or Jew, murderer or valedictorian, adulterer or monk, thief or philanthropist—all are equally condemned before God in their sin, and all are equally in need of the Savior's grace.

Reflection Questions



- Have you ever jumped to judgments that you found out after the fact were wrong? How has this sort of thing affected your relationships? Give an example.
- How has prayer kept you in your place? How has prayer given you God's heart for others? Have you seen your prayers work for the sanctification of other people? Explain.
- Do you truly believe that, apart from the grace of God, you could be tempted by any sin? How would this affect the way you judge other people?
- Describe a time when someone addressed your sin with humility and a time when someone addressed your sin with a sense of superiority. How did you respond to each? Why?