

JUDGMENT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

WORSHIP

Begin by reading Psalm 19.

FELLOWSHIP

How are you planning to spend your Fourth of July weekend?

DISCUSSION

1. Mike's three main points during his sermon were: 1. We need to judge 2. We need to judge our judging and 3. We are to love others and judge ourselves. Which point resonated most with you?

Read Mt. 7:1-5

2. What are your first reactions to this passage? Any comments are welcome.

3. In your own words, what would you say is the main point Jesus is driving home?

4. Why do you think we are so prone to judge others?

5. Mike mentioned in his sermon that the word for hypocrite in the original languages was the same word used for actor in Greek. Not that all actors are hypocrites, but that all hypocrisy is acting, pretending to be something we're not. In what ways do you see people's hypocrisy, their self-deception?

6. How could our culture be renewed if it took heed of Jesus' words here?

PRAYER

Be sure to share prayer requests as a group. If you desire, you may conclude by praying this prayer from theologian Reinhold Niebuhr:

Lord, we pray this day mindful of the sorry confusion of our world. Look with mercy upon this generation of your children so steeped in misery of their own contriving, so far strayed from your ways and so blinded by passions. We pray for the victims of tyranny, that they may resist oppression with courage. We pray for wicked and cruel men, whose arrogance reveals to us what the sin of our own hearts is like when it has conceived and brought forth its final fruit. We pray for ourselves who live in peace and quietness, that we may not regard our good fortune as proof of our virtue, or rest content to have our ease at the price of other's sorrow and tribulation. Amen. (Reinhold Niebuhr - 1892 - 1971)

