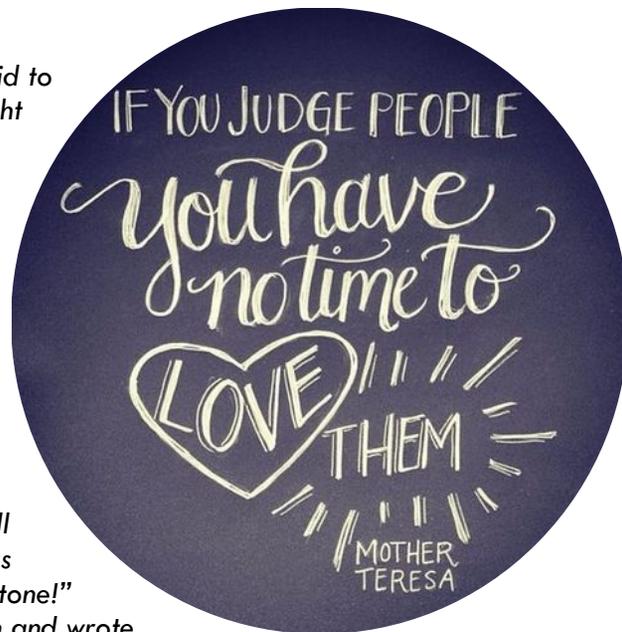


MONDAY *“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. Matthew 7:1-5*

We make judgments all the time: what to wear based on the weather, when to speak up at a meeting, how to show compassion to a hurting friend. There is a difference between those kinds of judgements and being judgmental, or judging others. Jesus specifically warns us to never judge others. That’s God’s job. Instead of focusing on where others are failing in their faith, focus on the growth, change and repentance you need. You’ll quickly realize you have a lifetime of work ahead of you! Then, be thankful that there are other sinners on that same journey!

TUESDAY *“Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. John 8:4-8*

Picture yourself in this moment. Can you see the disheveled, weeping woman? The religious leaders who know their Bibles front to back, dragging her to the center of town to be judged? Now look at Jesus, read his expression, what do you see? How does he sound? Can you see what he is writing? These leaders were clearly “right:” the Bible said this woman had sinned and the punishment was death (Leviticus 20:10). How can you explain Jesus’ mercy? Does he excuse her sin? Who does he seem more disappointed with?



WEDNESDAY *Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? James 4:11-12*

James reminds his community they are not to take over God’s role as Judge. Ponder this- one of the ways we change the world together is with changed hearts. We change the world when we choose love over judgement.

THURSDAY *Who are you to condemn someone else’s servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord’s help, they will stand and receive his approval. Romans 14:4*

A woman in our congregation shared this verse with me. It helped her know what God needed of her in relation to other believers, especially when she perceived they were in error. She dwelled on this: “Who are you to condemn someone else’s servant?” Correction is up to their boss, not her. We are God’s servants. It’s up to God to speak, transform and shape us. And God will not fail do so!

FRIDAY *Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. For instance, one person believes it’s all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don’t. And those who don’t eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. Romans 14:1-3*

In the early church, eating practices were a big source of debate. One group, reading the OT laws, held strictly to kosher eating. Another, hearing Jesus’ call to be set free, ate whatever food was set before them. Paul calls believers not to spend time arguing with each other. Instead, he asks the more mature believers to respect and honor the weaker ones, realizing they, too, are loved by God.

SATURDAY *I have come to save the world and not to judge it. John 12:47*

How do you spend the hours God has given you? Jesus spent his time on Earth teaching, forgiving, feeding, and healing. As Jesus’ children, we use our hours best when we follow his footsteps.