

FUSED

Fellowship

Understanding

Service

Evangelism

Devotion

Ice Breaker

In Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the story ends with two star-crossed lovers ending their lives, somewhat because of a misunderstanding, which is a peculiar part of the story without greater understanding. Context is what informs the reader. Can you think of other popular movies/stories that would be misunderstood without context? Give specific examples.

February 16, 2020

What Does Jesus Really Say About Judging Others?

FUSED in Luke

Opening Prayer

Discussion

1. Many people often say things like, "The Bible says, 'Do not judge!'" When do you usually hear that quote come up? Why do people usually use that quote? Prior to this week, how did you understand those words?
2. In Josh's message on Sunday, he made the case that context is everything in Jesus' sermon in Luke 6. While our Bibles might break up this text into as many as seven different sections, Jesus is actually teaching one message with many parts. Read Luke 6:20-49 together as a group and then fill in the blank in the following sentence: The Sermon on the Plain is about _____. How would you summarize it?
3. Jesus' sermon begins with an acknowledgement that people hurt. He uses words like poor, hungry, weep, hate, exclude, and insult to describe that hurt. And then he turns his attention to enemies, the people who *cause* all that hurt. His command is to love them and it's accompanied with actions, things you "do." When have you succeeded in loving an enemy of yours? When have you failed? Why does this feel so hard?
4. Jesus doesn't allow the conversation to stay on actions because next, he addresses the heart. This is the "do not judge" portion of this message. As Josh mentioned, this word "judge" can also mean "make up your mind about." When we have enemies, how do we make up our minds about them? Give examples.
5. Judging others is often portrayed as "don't tell me what to do; worry about yourself." The Bible clearly speaks many times of the place that correcting others has in the Christian life (2 Tim. 3:16; Lk. 17:3), yet as Jesus speaks, he's concerned more with how we view ourselves. When confronted with those who hurt us, we often see their faults clearly, while blind to our own, but Jesus says that before we can correct another, even an enemy, we *first* have to correct our own. When have you had to acknowledge your own mistakes?
6. Highlight verse 36. What do you think it means to be merciful to my enemy as God is merciful to me?
7. Satan will always try to convince us that we can excuse our own behavior toward our enemies because of how serious their offense is. When times are hard, we will allow ourselves to become the exception, rather than the rule. Read Luke 6:49 again. What or who is on your heart right now as you process this study? Who are you convicted to love, but don't want to? How are you challenged to put these words into practice this week? How can your fellow group members help encourage you to put these words into practice?

Closing Prayer