* Easter Jiffy Lube
* **Apostles’ Creed**
* **Series Slide**
* Imagine if Facebook was worse than it is.
* I mean, right now most people agree that it can be pretty bad.
* On any given day you can get on there and read hateful rants about any subject under the sun.
* But there are some things that you can’t see.
	+ Murder
	+ Rape
	+ Explicit Pornography
	+ Child abuse
	+ ….just for example.
* But have you ever stopped to think about why you can’t see those terrible things on Facebook?
* Most of us would say, “Well, Facebook monitors all that stuff.” Which is true…but completely de-personalized.
* There is no giant semi-conscious computer deciding what videos and language are allowed to be posted. Not yet, anyway.
* No. There are actual people watching every video that is posted.
* Contract employees who make barely above minimum wage…. about 12% of what a normal Facebook employee makes … are tasked at monitoring some 400 posts in a day…and have to make a judgment call in about 30 seconds about whether or not the post will be allowed.
* In an article for the Tech reporting website Verge, last month Casey Newton visited and interviewed employees at Facebook contractor site in Arizona.
	+ <https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/25/18229714/cognizant-facebook-content-moderator-interviews-trauma-working-conditions-arizona>
* The findings were, at best, disturbing.
* The stress of watching the volumes of violent, sexual, and racist content and then being responsible to judge its appropriateness…all with a manager looking at your statistical accuracy and speed of judgment… has created a kind of mental and emotional trauma in many of these employees.
* People work in fear of others breaking down mentally. One man started bringing a gun to work to protect himself.
* Employees are developing PTSD-like symptoms. Some have begun to embrace the fringe viewpoints and conspiracy theories they have to monitor. Like “The earth is flat.” Or “The holocaust didn’t happen.” or “9/11 wasn’t a terrorist attack.”
* They have an on-site counselor to help employees through their panic attacks. Though many of the employees have not found the counselors a helpful way to cope with the stress. Some of them reported the best ways to cope are sex, drugs, and making offensive jokes. All of those things are done on the job…in private spaces around the office.
* Most employees barely last a year.
* Here’s one employee in her own words.
* **“If we weren’t there doing that job, Facebook would be so ugly. We’re seeing all that stuff on their behalf. And yeah, we make some wrong calls. But people don’t know that there’s actually human beings behind those seats.”**
* In order to make it safe for you to post your humble brag…or that picture of your weight loss progress…or the thing your kid just said…
* …a human being has to watch hours of murder, suicide, explicit sexual content, and all sorts of evil.
* Someone has to judge.
* Here’s the thing.
* All of us would probably say that we want our social media monitored. We want someone to make judgments about content that is and isn’t allowed to go up. We don't want Facebook to become some version of the Dark Web.
* At the same time, all of us would probably say that we don’t like the things that were revealed in the article I just referenced. Human beings, underpaid, overworked, reading and watching content that is inevitably destroying their mental and emotional well being.
* It's an ethical dilemma isn’t it?
* **Title Slide- “Facebook Could Be Worse: Why Judgment Day is Something Everybody Wants and Nobody Wants”- Matt 22:1-14, John 12:44-50**
* Today, we come to the most unsettling part of the Apostle’s Creed… One that presents its own dilemma.
* **“Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead.”**
* On one hand, we would all say, “There are some things terribly wrong with the world. Some things that need to be fixed. Someone needs to come and rid the world of its evil and darkness.”
* On the other hand, once we get into the nitty-gritty of exactly WHO and HOW that judgment happens…well…things get pretty…uncomfortable.
* On one hand, we want a judgment day. On the other hand…we don’t.
* **Matthew 22:1-14**
* **Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables:**
* **2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to summon those invited to the banquet, but they didn’t want to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: See, I’ve prepared my dinner; my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’**
* **5 “But they paid no attention and went away, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged, and he sent out his troops, killed those murderers, and burned down their city.**
* **8 “Then he told his servants, ‘The banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Go then to where the roads exit the city and invite everyone you find to the banquet.’ 10 So those servants went out on the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding banquet was filled with guests. 11 When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed for a wedding. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes? ’ The man was speechless.**
* **13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’**
* **14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”**
* **John 12:44-50**
* **44 Jesus cried out, “The one who believes in me believes not in me, but in him who sent me. 45 And the one who sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness. 47 If anyone hears my words and doesn’t keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and doesn’t receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a command to say everything I have said. 50 I know that his command is eternal life. So the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me.”**
* Transition: Today, I want us to look at why we all want Judgment Day, why we all fear judgment day…and what we’re supposed to do about that dilemma.
* **1) We want Judgment Day because we want Shalom.**
	+ Its sort of a no-brainer for most people that they would like their social media free of the possibility of running across footage of a brutal murder.
	+ Likewise, most people will agree that evil exists in the world and something needs to be done about it.
	+ The state of the world where everything is right…where everything is just as it should be…in perfect relationship…perfect harmony…no chaos or disorder…no evil…
	+ The Hebrew word the Bible uses for that is “Shalom”…its sort of loosely translated “Peace”. Although, the English word Peace is more about the absence of evil…the presence of good. So it falls a little short.
	+ In the Scripture, when Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, or in Matthew’s Gospel- “The Kingdom of Heaven”…he’s talking about a world of Shalom.
	+ **Matt 22:2**
	+ When Jesus tells the story about the wedding banquet, he compares the banquet to the Kingdom of Heaven…or the place of Shalom…where all is right and good.
	+ **22:3**
	+ But, when the invites to the Banquet go out… into the world…where the party ISN’T happening…
	+ …for some reason, no one wants to come.
	+ **22:4**
	+ So the king sends out ANOTHER invitation. Maybe the guests misunderstood. This is a really good thing. There will be music, dancing, delicious Roast Beast. Its all prepared for you. Just come.
	+ **John 12:46 & 50**
	+ Additionally, from the passage we read in John, when Jesus talks about judgment day, he talks about light coming into the world. He talks about Eternal Life being connected to what God says about the world.
	+ So lets talk for just a second why we all want judgment.
	+ …its because we all want light. We all want life. We all want shalom.
	+ Now, filtered Facebook is hardly Shalom…don’t get me wrong…but we want SOMEBODY judging content on Social Media. Because when we’re looking for something to do on the weekend…we don’t want to end up browsing a child being abused.
	+ Likewise, to an even greater degree, we don’t want that abuse to happen in the first place. We don't want rape, or incest, or pornography, or hate, or murder, or looting, or mass shootings, or suicide to exist AT ALL.
	+ We don’t just want evil filtered…we want it judged and done away with.
	+ When Jesus says that he’s invited us to a banquet…when he says he’s bringing light to the world through Judgment Day…
* **Back to 1)**
	+ …he is telling us that there is a re-unification happening.
	+ See, this is where the late-modern individualistic “gospel” story has become problematic.
	+ There is this belief that there is the physical earth…and then there are these 2 other spiritual places…heaven and hell. So everybody gets a chance on this neutral earth to either live a good or evil life…and then judgment day comes and God decides whether you have been good enough to go to heaven…or bad enough to go to hell.
	+ Or he gives you a theological quiz and if you answer correctly about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection…you go to heaven while anyone who gets the quiz wrong goes to hell.
	+ But that’s not the gospel of the Bible.
	+ The biblical story tells us that heaven and earth were together. That in the beginning, God’s Kingdom was united with earth. But through sin, they were torn apart. Separated.
	+ And the darkness, evil took residence on the earth.
	+ The gospel, is that Jesus is going to call what is evil…evil…and push it out of the world. He is going to re-unify heaven and earth…and bring back...to an even greater degree the original Shalom. The harmony and peace, goodness, righteousness and beauty that God originally made.
	+ And YES, we get an invitation to that party.
	+ And YES, we get wedding clothes…so that we don’t ruin the party with our own evil.
	+ AND YES, we get eternal life…not just life filtered…like some cloistered-fenced off cult that is pretending that evil doesn’t exist…
	+ This is ABUNDANT OVER-FLOWING EVER PRESENT beauty and order and peace and love ….that exists forever…without the presence of evil…because the evil has been judged and driven out.
	+ The gospel…the good news…is so much MORE than do I go to heaven or hell when I die.
	+ It is, quite literally, a dream come true.
	+ Now, lets make this real practical for a minute.
	+ Because this good news…that Jesus will return and judge the living and the dead… it has real implications for the way you live your life today…things that are beautiful.
	+ **Without a judgment day, life is arbitrary and meaningless.**
	+ All of us, with the choices we make, the things we post on Facebook, the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the jobs we do, the kids we raise…you might find it surprising…but we are all looking to be judged.
	+ Now, the kicker is we all want to be judged POSITIVELY.
	+ But we’re all looking for feedback.
	+ For someone to say, “Well Done.”
	+ That’s why there is so much damage done to kids who never hear “Well Done” or “I’m Proud of you” from their parents.
	+ That’s why co-dependency and people pleasing exists.
	+ That’s why people will give away their bodies sexually …or expose themselves physically…just so somebody affirms their efforts.
	+ Just so somebody will say- “You were good.” Or “you look good”. Or “I need you.” Or “I want you”
	+ Let give you access to my own personal struggle.
	+ Every time I preach I feel it.
	+ I can tell my self over and over and over that its not people’s opinion of me that matters most.
	+ I can tell my self that someone’s evaluation of the sermon I preach is not important…
	+ …but it feels so fulfilling when someone says, “That was a great sermon.” And it feels so deflating when someone says, “I didn’t like that.”
	+ Listen, we all have this longing to be judged…because all of us want shalom. We all want to be included in the Kingdom of heaven. In the world of beauty and good.
	+ Without a judgment day, there is no answer to the question, “Am I worthy?” “Did I count?”….and all of our arguments about what is right and wrong, good and evil…are a waste of time.
	+ Life is meaningless…and arbitrary without someon who has the ACTUAL authority to say “Well Done.”
	+ **Without a judgment day, vengeance is ours.**
	+ This one is simple.
	+ If there is no authority, no ultimate judge…then every perceived evil thing done to us…must be repaid BY US.
	+ This means there is no room for forgiveness. No room for patience. If there is, it means SOMEONE is getting away with something.
	+ But, if there is a judge and judgment day, we don’t have to take up revenge. Instead we can practice this-
	+ **Romans 12:17-21**
	+ **Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone’s eyes. 18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God’s wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. 20 But**
	+ **If your enemy is hungry, feed him.**
	+ **If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.**
	+ **For in so doing**
	+ **you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.**
	+ **21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.**
*
* Transition: So that’s why we want judgment day, here’s why we don’t-
* **2) We don’t want judgment day because we don’t want to admit we’re the problem.**
	+ When Jesus tells the story of the Banquet he gets a very interesting reply from the original invitees.
	+ **22:5**
	+ Some people ignore the invitation. They are clearly too busy with their everyday.
	+ In a sense, they’ve simply become used to the normal activity of life and something like a banquet…even a royal banquet…seems like a waste of time.
	+ They aren’t HONORED by the invitation, they are bothered by it because it is interrupting their personal lives.
	+ **22:6**
	+ Then others are just flat offended. Sot they actually grab the servant who brings the invitation, beat him up and kill him.
	+ **22:7**
	+ Then, comes the first act of judgment.
	+ The king, in what seems like a MAJOR overreaction, sends an army, not just to avenge the death of his servant…but he burns down their entire cities.
	+ Hang on right there just a second. Jesus is saying something here and its not “God is going to overreact to our sin.”
	+ No, he’s telling the story of Israel.
	+ They rejected the prophets, like Isaiah (who he just quoted), and so they were carried off to Babylonian captivity. God’s people, Israel, rejected the invitation…and in that rejection…the invitation to Shalom…to the Kingdom of God opened up to all people.
	+ **22:10**
	+ That’s what Jesus is talking about when he says “both evil and good” were invited into the banquet.
	+ He is not saying “everyone gets into heaven”.
	+ What Jesus is saying to the people of Israel is that they are going to find it VERY SURPRISING regarding who gets into the banquet and who is out.
	+ See Israel had drawn strict racial and religious lines around who was allowed to be a part of God’s Kingdom and receive his Shalom.
	+ But many of them weren’t willing to admit they were the problem. That it wasn’t the rest of the world that was bad…and they were good.
	+ But that it was their own evil, their own distrust of God, their own pride and self-righteousness that was poisoning the world.
	+ God wasn’t asking Israel to compare themselves with the rest of the world…he was telling them to listen to the prophets, like Isaiah, who had come demanding that they repent and turn back to following Him.
	+ But instead, they killed those prophets. Because they didn’t want to hear that they were the problem. And now Jesus is saying…you are going to be surprised.
	+ **22:11-12**
	+ That’s what the whole wedding clothes thing is about.
	+ The King finds this guy who on one hand, wants to be INSIDE THE BANQUET…on the other hand…DOESN’T WANT TO CHANGE HIS ATTIRE…
	+ And so the King says, “Friend”…that’s important.
	+ This isn’t a person that the King doesn’t want at the banquet. He’s there because he received an invitation…but he doesn’t want to change. He wants the party, but he doesn’t want to dress for it.
	+ Like us. We want judgment…but we don't want to be judged.
	+ **22:13-14**
	+ Then there is this final judgment.
	+ It is impossible for darkness and light to exist together.
	+ Light, by nature, pushes darkness out onto the fringes.
	+ And there, the weeping and gnashing of teeth is representative of frustration.
	+ For the people who on one hand want to be in the party, but on the other hand, want to hold on to the lives they think will bring them a “Well done” or “You’re important” judgment.
	+ But…to be a part of the party…you have to wear clothes that belong in the party.
	+ You can’t have both light and darkness.
	+ And if you try…you’ll end up with only darkness…frustrated…weeping…wishing the party was all yours.
	+ I think the surprise of judgment is best summed up by another part of Matthews gospel.
	+ **7:21-23**
	+ **21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name? ’ 23 Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers! ’**
	+ Jesus is saying that there will be many on judgment day who call him Lord. Who, by outward appearances have been influential and done good things…in Jesus’ name.
	+ But, Jesus says, they missed the point.
	+ They didn’t come to the party to be with the King…or to celebrate the Kings son.
	+ Judgment Day won’t just be surprising in its timing. You know, that you never know when Jesus is coming back. That he comes like a thief in the night.
	+ Judgment Day will also be surprising in that people who think they get to be a part of the Kingdom of God will find that they aren’t.
	+ They will likewise look at other people and say, “Wait…he’s worse than me. She’s worse than me.”
* **Back to 2)**
	+ Remember the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15?
	+ Most people think about the first part.
	+ You know, the man has a son who runs off….
	+ …and comes back…
	+ …and the Father throws a party.
	+ But that story that Jesus tells isn’t mainly a message to people who have sinned greatly and need to return to God.
	+ **Luke 15:28-29**
	+ See at the end of that story we find the older brother.
	+ Who never ran off and did all the terrible things that the younger brother did.
	+ But look at his heart.
	+ The problem is not that his actions have been terrible, its that his heart is postured against his Father.
	+ He doesn’t care about being the Father’s son…he only cares about what he can get from the Father.
	+ Remember what Jesus said to all the people that said, “Lord, we did so much for you.”
	+ That’s exactly what the older brother says here.
	+ He refuses to admit that his heart is hard against his Father.
	+ He only recites how much he deserves a good judgment.
	+ How much he deserves his own party.
* **Back to 2)**
	+ Listen, in our deepest longing to be judged positively, we develop this sense of self-righteousness.
	+ We feel like to survive judgment day, we need to prove to God how strong we are.
	+ How small our sins are and how good our works are.
	+ So we minimize our unrighteousness…tell ourselves, and others…and ultimately God that we aren’t that bad.
	+ We bring to him a list of how much good we’ve done.
	+ Its like showing to the wedding without putting on wedding clothes.
	+ Its holding onto the thing we think will get us the party…and in so doing we reject the party he’s throwing.
	+ **John 12:48**
	+ That’s why Jesus says, I don’t have to judge you, the word I’ve spoken already has.
	+ Its kind of like this.
	+ If someone looks at Van Gogh’s starry night…or Da Vacini’s Sisteen Chapel… and says, “Meh. I’ve seen better”
	+ I don’t judge think less of those works of art.
	+ No. That person has been judged by that art.
	+ When we hear the Word of God.
	+ When we see the beauty of what he’s created.
	+ …and then we ignore it.
	+ Or we chase after something else to bring us peace.
	+ Well, we are condemned by that word. Already.
	+ It is simply the long-suffering patience of God who gives us chance after chance in life, invitation after invitation…even when we show up in our rags to his party…he still says “Friend”
	+ Even when we pout in the outer darkness complaining about how unfair he is…and how we deserve better…
	+ … he still inviting us in.
	+ But it won’t hold forever.
	+ You will die.
	+ You will run out of time.
	+ And Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead.
* **TRANSITION:** The shooting in New Zealand. Facebook couldn’t keep up with the video posts of the shooting. More than 300k leaked through before being deleted. We can’t manage our Evil.
	+ You know….you can’t manage your sin.
	+ You can’t hold back the evil in you.
	+ It has to die.
	+ That’s why we hate Judgment day.
	+ Because deep down, we’ve all seen our own sin.
	+ SO we want judgment…but we don’t want it.
	+ I have good news.
* **3) In Jesus, Judgment Day is our past and Shalom is our future.**
	+ Facebook quote about the cross.
	+ **“If I didn’t do that Job weren’t there doing that job, [THE WORLD] would be so ugly. We’re seeing all that stuff on their behalf. And yeah, we make some wrong calls. But people don’t know that there’s actually human beings behind those seats.”**
	+ Jesus moves from the judges stand into the dock.
	+ In Jesus , This means we are already judged.
	+ That's how we get clothes for the wedding.
	+ **Galatians 2:19-21**
	+ **For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.**
		- So no fear of confessing sin.
		- Addressing sin.
		- Able to forgive, without vengeance…because that vengeance is either on Christ…or that person
		- No one gets away with anything
	+ Also, lesser standards of judgment don’t bother me
	+ Looks, money, power, etc.
	+ **John 12:47b-** Jesus didn’t come to judge…but to save.
	+ And in saving…judgment has to happen.
	+ The invitation has been offered. Will you receive it. And put on your wedding clothes…come into the party. Step into the light. Repent and believe the Word of the Son of God, who will come to judge the living and the dead