

Family TableTalk

Conversation 51

Withholding Judgment

read

Luke 6:36-37, 41-42

think

own mistakes. The level, judgmentalism creates systemic power structures and xenophobia that underpin the racism we've seen throughout history.

Jesus says, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned." Withholding judgment is a spiritual discipline. It's the practice of replacing condemnation with mercy and humility. Passing judgment is the opposite of humility because it elevates ourselves above others and makes us blind to our plank in our eyes prevents us from seeing ourselves and others clearly. On a societal level, judgmentalism creates systemic power structures and xenophobia that underpin the racism we've seen throughout history.

To be sure, judgment is not to be confused with keeping each other accountable for wrongdoing and standing up against injustice. We can address sin with empathy while understanding our own position as sinners saved by grace. When we practice withholding judgment, we practice compassion, sympathy and the way of peace in our souls. Our hearts become soft towards our neighbor, allowing us to love freely as Christ has loved us.

As we watch the George Floyd tragedy and its impact on the black American community unfold, perhaps the most compassionate response is simply preaching Jesus' gospel of repentance and walking with them. Let's open our eyes and face the racism embedded in all cultures, starting with our own. Many of us have judged people by the color of their skin. Let's empower each other to live with humble courage to love our neighbor, pray for those who persecute us and to be merciful, just as our heavenly Father is merciful.

apply

- Is there someone or a group of people you tend to pass judgment on? How does Luke 6 speak to your heart?
- Which enemy is God inviting you to love and pray for today?
- How can believers take a stand against injustice with humility and grace?

pray

Dear Lord, we ask for your forgiveness for the ways we have passed judgment on others. We repent of our hardened, stubborn hearts and how we've turned a blind eye to injustice. Give us courage to see others the way we see ourselves and to see ourselves as forgiven and free. Give us discipline to walk the narrow path of humility and grace and may that bring hope and healing to our nation.

by **Jodi Chung**

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