

Sunday Leftovers

Sermon Title: Hot Mess – Looking at You

What's this message about?

Our mess is what brings us together today. It is one of the few things that all humans have in common: life is messy! Yet, Christians seem to be quick to recognize someone else's mess without remembering that our lives aren't squeaky-clean either. In fact, one of the primary reasons people stop going to church is that Christians are so well known for pointing out other people's messes. In other words, we're known for judging people quickly and harshly. This isn't the kind of community for which Jesus came to earth, died and was resurrected! He offered us a different vision for community that is grounded in grace without sacrificing a moral standard to which we are held accountable. We're all in the same boat- the boat of undeserved grace. Let God do the judging and allow His grace to produce the change that it is designed to produce.

Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think was the main point of Matt's message?*
- *Why do you think it is so easy (and sometimes satisfying) to point out other's messes? How can we use these insights to be more compassionate?*
- *Read Matthew 7:1-6. What does Jesus say must be done before we can remove the "speck?" How do we do this?*
- *Read James 4:11-12. How does this change the way we think about being critical of the people around us?*

Do something about it:

Try something this week: when you see someone making a mess, instead of being critical/judgmental, whisper under your breath: *I know a mess when I see one because I create messes too.* Take this opportunity to either help this person directly, or to say a prayer for them.

Digging deeper:

Romans 7; Romans 8:1,2; Romans 3:10,23; James 4; Luke 6:41,42; James 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Ephesians 2:8,9; Hebrews 4:16