

The power of judgement

discussion guide

based on **Romans 2** (Linked to sermon of 17/01/21)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks



This was part of a series: Romans

Intro: Last week we looked at the power of the gospel, we now turned our attention to the awesome power of judgement. We should never take God's judgement lightly, but equally we need to remember that our judgement of others can also have a powerful negative effect.

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up (Go deeper with God):

Let's begin with praise. If you have access to youtube, play Matt Redman's 10,000 reasons https://youtu.be/DXDGE_IRIOE or choose another worship song which you group know well. Use this as a starting point for prayers of thanks and worship to God. However we are feeling right now, worship is a really good place to start from. It may feel particularly like a "sacrifice of praise" right now. God honours that.

Now read through Romans 2:1-16 (you might like to do this a few times, Paul's writing often needs a second or third read).

What words seem to be repeated? (probably means they are quite important to Paul's message)

Verse 1 echoes Jesus' teaching in the sermon on the Mount. Read Matthew 7:1-5. In what ways do you judge others? Is it ever right to judge others?

What do both Paul and Jesus remind us are the dangers of judging others? Can we live up to our own standards of judgement?

Verse 2 How is God's judgement different to ours?

Verse 4 talks about the riches of God's kindness, forbearance and patience. Why are these qualities so important in relation to the topic of judgement? What should this lead us to do?

Verse 5 mentions the Day of Judgement. Discuss among yourselves what you imagine the Day of Judgement to be like, then read Revelation 20:11-15. How similar/different is this description to those you discussed?

Verse 16 tells us that Jesus "will judge the secret thoughts of all". How does that make you feel?

The good news is that as followers of Jesus, our names are in the Book of life, we are promised eternal life and our sins are forgiven! (Revelation 3:11 and 21:27)

In (Grow closer to each other):

To what extent are you conscious of judging one another? We often judge others who do not act, think or feel in the same way we do. How might we try to be less judgemental of one another?

Out (Reach further with the good news):

Non-believers often accuse Christians of being judgemental. How can we better express condemnation of sin rather than condemnation of sinners?

We often side step the topic of Judgement day and find it an uncomfortable thing to talk about, especially to non-believers. How might a better understanding of God's judgement help us to explain it to our friends and family, who do not believe?

Finish your time together praying for one another, especially for close and loving relationships. Pray too for friends and family at this difficult time.