

# Table Group

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*Week of July 27, 2020*

## Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

<sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the

plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

*"In order to be of service to others, we have...to stop judging them, to stop evaluating them, and thus become free to be compassionate. Compassion can never coexist with judgement, because judgment creates the distance, the distinction, which prevents us from really being with the other. These judgements influence deeply [our] thoughts, words, and actions...Those whom we consider lazy, indifferent, hostile, or obnoxious we treat as such, forcing them to live up to our own views. These self-created limits prevent us from being available to people and shrivel our compassion. ~Henri Nouwen*

*Respond to the specific statement, "Those whom we consider lazy, indifferent, hostile, or obnoxious we treat as such, forcing them to live up to our own views". How do you treat all people with the same loving-kindness? Is it possible to avoid making a judgment about another person? If so, how?*

Ponder these questions and share as you are comfortable:

How is your relationship with God today?

What spiritual disciplines are you struggling with this week? What life-giving habits are helping to grow your connection with God?

Is there anything in your life (fear, anger, forgiveness, property, possessions, etc.) that is getting in the way of your relationship with God and others?

Is there anything you are trying to keep hidden?

How might the Holy Spirit be working for renewal in your life?