

SMALL GROUP

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Final Call
James 4:11-12
July 12, 2020

Sermon Summary

Evidently James' readers were condemning one another and didn't understand that making the final call on individuals is God's responsibility and not theirs. Notice, he says, "*Do not speak against one another.*" The phrase "*speak against*" comes from a word that means to criticize or slander. The context, however, makes it clear James was addressing more than just speaking ill of someone. Notice, he went on to say, "*He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother.*" In short, James was saying, "Don't criticize one another and make the final call." He then gave 2 reasons why we should never judge someone.

Diving Into The Message

1. Many Christians today have misunderstood what the Bible means when it says "do not judge others." Michael mentioned two acts NOT meant by the command. What are they and how have you seen people misuse the command to not judge?
2. James mentions two reasons we should not make the final call on our brothers. What is the first reason?
3. How does judging a brother or sister disregard God's Word and why is it such a serious offense? In light of the strong warnings mentioned in Psalm 50:19-22 and Psalm 101:5, why do you think Christians so readily slander others and judge them? In what ways has this happened to you or in what ways have you judged others?
4. What is the second reason James gave for not judging our brothers or sisters?
5. James implies two reasons God is uniquely qualified to judge others and we are not. Discuss the two reasons and how they disqualify humans from making the final judgement on others
6. Because God is the Perfect Law-giver and the True Judge, what does that imply for us? How should that shape our day-to-day behavior?
7. What is one take-away from today's message and how will you apply it to your life?

Prayer Action

1. As social distancing and isolation drag on, many people are becoming anxious and hopeless. Pray for those you know who are struggling and ask the Lord to use you in creative ways to encourage them.
2. Pray God will give wisdom to our political leaders to lead through these uncertain times. Pray God will give doctors, nurses, and researchers wisdom to know how to eradicate the coronavirus.