

## September 15, 2024 Sermon Study Guide Lead Pastor Brian Bales – *Off Brand Jesus: Judgment or "ism"?* Jude 18-21

They said to you, In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." **19** It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. **20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **21**keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (Jude 18-21 ESV

## A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

## **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- 1. Bar Code Christianity: the code does not make something real, the contents or ingredients do.
  - You may be wearing a t-shirt with a logo and text but how do those words accurately describe you?

Depending on the t-shirt, what might people believe about you?

• Similarly, when you see the fish symbol on the back of a car, what internal thoughts or external comments do you have regarding that person's driving, or about who is in the car?

2. In his example from Luke 18:10-24, Brian points out that the Pharisee, though correct in his comparison to other men (*executioners, unjust, adulterers*), had moved from judging others to judgmentalism.

• When has a prideful attitude moved you from observing to condemning?

• *At least I'm not like* ...allows us to always find someone that we are better than. Is the trap of comparison always this obvious? Or can it be more subtle? How do we guard against comparison that leads to judging another who is also made in the image of God?

- Brian labeled this "*see something, say something wrongly*"; when have you said something about someone else in a judgmental tone that you wish you could walk back?
- 3. *"Judge not, that you be not judged" Matthew* 7:1-3 does not mean what we may think it means. Greek *krino* is used to describe condemnation or criticism. How does this become a heart issue for us?

• Are we to "see something and say nothing"?

• How do we make judgments? When should we judge? (Examples given include 1 Cor. 6:1-8; 1 Cor. 14:29; 2 Cor. 6:14)

• If we don't judge any behavior, what might that lead to?

- 4. How do we live? How can we navigate the tension between judging and becoming judgmental?
  - There are two directives in these verses from Jude: *pray and keep*. How are we to "*see something, say something*" with these guardrails in place?

• When might judgment be interpreted as loving or as condemning?

• When do I catch myself feeling "*better than*" like the Pharisee in the story, proud that I am not like the others? When do I remember that I am a sinner that Jesus died for and have been redeemed?

• As a church community, how do we avoid following an Off Brand Jesus?

## Walking It Out

• Consider during the week in light of this teaching if your actions toward others reflect the One True Jesus or an Off Brand version.