

The Judgment is Love

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Janet's sermon we get the painful reminder that Christians say and do things "*in the Lord's Name*" that shouts to the world "we'd rather judge you than love you". She quoted St. Catherine as saying "so much suffering is caused by the misunderstanding of God's true nature. God's heart is more gentle than the Virgin's first kiss upon the Christ."

Look

1. Can you share a time when you felt you were being judged?
2. What is the payoff for us when we judge another race, group or religion?

Book

Matthew 5; 1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus reveals his compassion for the meek and broken by assuring rewards. He promises the kingdom to those whose show peace and mercy.

1. Who was his audience?
2. Why is this relevant to us today?

Took

Jesus had little tolerance for religious and social arrogance. He knew that in order for the broken to seek God, the church needed to be a judgment-free zone.

1. When you replace judgment with unconditional acceptance, how might St. Timothy's change?
2. How do we expand the message that St. Timothy's welcomes everyone-no exceptions.

God wants us to know that love is a verb and like all verbs it requires action. Invite a new co-worker to lunch, take flowers to a nurses station, or buy the person behind you coffee. Do something positive "*In the Lord's name*".