



Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day
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Monday of 12th Week of Ordinary Time

Today we are reminded that we are not to judge others. Jesus uses an analogy of the splinter and plank in our eyes as he tries to explain that our sin is greater than the one we are judging. Who are we to judge anyhow?

When we judge we ultimately take away from God his right to show mercy and compassion. We make ourselves out to be a god and we condemn those we judge. God, who is love, is slow to anger and rich in kindness. God is always ready to forgive and is willing to show us mercy and compassion.

How many times have we judged people for their actions and condemned them? Have you ever said or heard it said, "Oh he/she is going to hell for that?" How do we know what God will do? If we were the one who committed the offense we would cry out for mercy and would want to be shown compassion.

There is a book written by a priest and his brother and sister-in-law called "Good Goats." In the book there is a story of a mother who goes to a priest and is terribly upset about her son. She tells the priest that he is involved with drugs and alcohol. He is traveling with a bad group of people. He has overdosed several times and almost died. She is worried that he will die and go to hell.

The priest tells her to be a judge. He says to her, "Sit on the judgement bench. Your son comes before you and he has done all these terrible things. What are you going to do?" She begins to cry and answers, "He is my son. I'd go to him and put my arms around him and tell him how much I love him." The priest responds, "Do you think God would do any less?"

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for our salvation. He put an end to sin and death. Who are we to judge anyone? Let us pray that we will not judge, and that God will show us His mercy and compassion.