



A HEART LIKE HIS

**Reserving Judgement. Walking a mile
in someone else's shoes brings new perspective.**

Scripture: Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time. James 2:13

Whether we like it or not, there is always going to be someone who is going to judge you for something. Your clothes, your job, your house, your family structure, your disability, your current circumstances or past mistakes to name a few. We live in a society where we all strive for normalcy and anything too out of our comfort level warrants a good judging. Wouldn't this be a beautiful brilliant world if we accepted each other with the love and compassion that Jesus did?

Reflect upon these words:

Every day in our everyday world,
sun shines as fairly on every face:
those who are—as much as those who have;
those who are not—as much as those who have not;
those who can think and run free
as much as those who are hobbled in mind or body.
In every season,
the sun does not need a reason
to beam its passion
on the alien and downtrodden.
What makes us need to compare,
to separate sisters from brothers,
to focus on shape, hair, accent, and color?
The sun's Creator says choose to love each other.
Choose to let the Son's light of kindness and love unfurl
every day in our everyday world.

A time of prayer:

Break our hearts like Yours, Lord Jesus, for *all* people who the world shuns. Show us Your ways at the “well”, with the “tax collectors,” and the “foreigners” so that we might accept “them” too. Then we might, in our everyday lives, help others find their way to You.

Break our hearts like Yours, Lord Jesus, for *all* people who the world scorns. Guide us to Your ways of forgiveness that lets peace and harmony flow. Then we can, in our everyday lives, stop the contempt that deems some unworthy of You.

We need a heart like Yours, Lord Jesus, filled with pure love for *all*: A heart that breaks us from this Judgment Road we get on, where Your love cannot be found. A heart that takes us down the Passion Road where Your Grace abounds. Then we might, every day in our everyday lives, see what You see in all humanity, Jesus, brothers and sisters who sit at Your Cross, loved and saved by You.

With a heart like Yours, Lord Jesus, we can shine Your Light in the world. Hear us as we pray. Amen

Personal actions steps:

- Be aware. How have I judged others either knowingly or unknowingly? With or without the facts? Do I offer kind mercy or harsh judgement? Is my perspective like that of Jesus?
- Be intentional. Tell a fusion family you are glad they are here! Make sure a newly divorced friend feels included. Be encouraging to someone struggling through addiction. Find a family that is not like yours and be intentional about making the connection with them!
- Be invitational. Let them know Good Shepherd would love to be their church family!
- Be Ready. Look for opportunities to love on these families who are struggling. Send a card, email or text of encouragement to let them know they are not alone!
- Be accountable. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time!

Action steps to impact my community and world:

- Got an unused gift card sitting in your wallet? Donate it! We will get it in the hands of deserving fusion families or families in recovery that could use this blessing! Email jallen@goodshepherd-naperville.org to donate gift cards.
- Reach out to Danielle Schaeffer to learn about ways you can serve our special needs families at schaeffer@goodshepherd-naperville.org.
- If you or someone you know needs information about our recovery programs for abuse, addiction or divorce, please reach out and we will get you connected to support!

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