THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

March 29 & 30'08

"Reboot" Series

When its time to adjust the "default" settings...
Studies from the Sermon on the Mount

This Week's Message: **"Judge Not..."**

Mick Bartlett

Matthew 7:1-5

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but you do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

Why all the souls that were were forfeit once
And he that might the vantage best have took
Found out the remedy. How would you be
If he which is the top of judgment should
But judge you as you are. Oh think on that
and mercy then will breathe within your lips
like man made new

William Shakespeare - Measure for measure act 2 scene 2

Do you have questions about Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount? Send them to sermonquestions@willowparkchurch.com and then listen to future messages for the answers!

"The gospel is good news for sick people and is disturbing for those who think they've got it all together. Some of us have been told our lives that we are wretched, but the gospel reminds us that we are beautiful. Others of us have been told our whole lives that we are beautiful, but the gospel reminds us that we are also wretched. The church is a place where we can stand up and say we are wretched, and everyone will nod and agree and remind us that we are beautiful."

Shane Claiborne – The Irresistible Revolution

Small Group Questions

Take some time to read aloud Jesus' word's about judgment.

Matthew 7:1-5

Either by yourself, or as a group, spend some time answering these questions with as much honesty as you can muster.

- How do you think and talk about others? On the whole - is it more positive than negative? Why/Why not?
- What about the way you think and talk about yourself – more positive or negative?
- Do you have a tendency to be overly critical of others, either to their face or behind their backs? Why?
- Given that the "log" Jesus was talking about was pride/self righteousness – is this a struggle in your own life? What will you do about it?
- And finally - Who have you committed your life to walking alongside? How's that going for you?

As a response to Jesus' challenge, why not practice praying through the Franciscan benediction each day this week?

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within your heart
May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.
May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.