

Was David a hypocrite? Why or why not?

As you think back on your life, have you had an experience similar to David's? Has someone ever confronted you over something and you've realized they were right? Describe the situation and the outcome.

On Sunday, Nolan said that we often find it easier to be more critical of shortcomings in other people's lives than in our own. Have you found that to be true in your own life? How?

What happened in 2 Samuel 12:13? What is repentance? Why is it important?

Read Psalm 51. David wrote these words shortly after his encounter with Nathan in 2 Samuel 12. Describe the change between David in 2 Samuel 12 and Psalm 51.

If you investigate your life in each of the following areas, are there "planks" in your eye that need to be removed? Write out ways you can do that this week.

Home life:

Relationship with friends:

Work life:

Relationship with God:

Sermon Notes

Mirror or Window?

Nolan Donald

Matthew 7:1-6



**WordServe. Shaped by God's Word;
serving God's world.**

Community Group Study Guide

For the week of November 8, 2009

Getting Started

As you reflect on Sunday's message, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

What is tolerance? How does our culture's definition of tolerance resemble or differ from the message of Matthew 7:1-5?

Have you ever held someone to a double standard or had someone use a double standard with you? How did it feel? What did you do to address it?

Matthew 7:2 says that the "measure" you use on someone else is the "measure" that will be used on you. Is this true in our interactions with other people? How? Describe an example.

Digging Deeper

In Matthew 5, Jesus calls those who draw attention the speck in another person's eye and ignore the plank in their own eye hypocrites. Often hypocrites are thought of as one who is acting, but what does the Bible mean when it refers to hypocrites? Look at the following passages. Write down characteristics you notice of a hypocrite.

- Matthew 22:15-22:

- Matthew 23:13-39:

- Mark 7:5-8:

- Luke 13:14-16:

Based on these texts, describe a hypocrite's understanding of God. How does it compare or contrast to Jesus' description of God in the Sermon on the Mount?

Some people describe hypocrites as "self-deceivers" and "tricksters." Do you agree with that description? Why or why not.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14. Jot down things you notice.

What caused David to be so angry?

According to the text, how had God proven his faithfulness in David's life?