

[Proverbs 18:2](#) ESV

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

[John 7:24](#) ESV

Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

[Proverbs 25:8](#) ESV

Do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?

[Matthew 7:1](#) ESV

"Judge not, that you be not judged.

[Genesis 3:15](#) ESV

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

[1 John 4:1](#) ESV

Beloved, do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

[Luke 10:16](#) ESV

"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

[2 Timothy 3:16](#) ESV

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

[2 Corinthians 10:5](#) ESV

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

[John 15:1-7](#) ESV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ...

[Hebrews 11:5](#) ESV

By faith, Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

[2 Thessalonians 1:9](#) ESV

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his might,

[Ephesians 1:6](#) ESV

To the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

[1 Corinthians 13:7](#) ESV

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

[Romans 8:34](#) ESV

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

[Matthew 28:18](#) ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

[Jude 1:9](#) ESV

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

[1 Timothy 3:15](#) ESV

If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

[1 Timothy 2:5](#) ESV

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

[Colossians 3:1-25](#) ESV

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ...

[Galatians 6:1](#) ESV

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

[1 Corinthians 15:33](#) ESV

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

[1 Corinthians 13:6](#) ESV

It does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

[1 Corinthians 7:39](#) ESV

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

[1 Corinthians 5:1](#) ESV

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

[1 Corinthians 5:1-13](#) ESV

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. ...

[Romans 6:23](#) ESV

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[John 20:26-29](#) ESV

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

[John 17:18-23](#) ESV

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake, I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ...

[John 17:15](#) ESV

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

[John 17:14](#) ESV

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

[John 17:11](#) ESV

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

[John 17:9](#) ESV

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

[John 16:13](#) ESV

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

[John 14:24](#) ESV

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

[John 14:20](#) ESV

In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

[John 14:16](#) ESV

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

[John 14:6](#) ESV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

[John 5:20](#) ESV

For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

[John 4:23-24](#) ESV

But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

[John 1:1](#) ESV

In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[Luke 23:46](#) ESV

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

[Luke 22:69](#) ESV

But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

[Luke 22:41](#) ESV

And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

[Luke 13:33](#) ESV

Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.'

[Luke 13:1-5](#) ESV

There was some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

[Luke 3:23](#) ESV

Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli,

[Luke 1:28](#) ESV

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

[2 Kings 8:26](#) ESV

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah; she was a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.

[1 Kings 5:15-16](#) ESV

Solomon also had 70,000 burden-bearers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hill country, besides Solomon's 3,300 chief officers who were over the work, who had charge of the people who carried on the work.

[1 Kings 4:26](#) ESV

Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots and 12,000 horsemen.

[Genesis 1:27](#) ESV

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

[Revelation 12:1](#) ESV

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

[Revelation 1:1](#) ESV

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

[James 4:11-12](#) ESV

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

[James 3:6](#) ESV

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

[James 1:19](#) ESV

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

[1 Timothy 6:16](#) ESV

Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

[Philippians 2:9-11](#) ESV

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Ephesians 5:25](#) ESV

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

[1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#) ESV

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ...

[1 Corinthians 5:5](#) ESV

You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

[Acts 17:10-11](#) ESV

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now, these Jews

were nobler than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

[Acts 2:38](#) *ESV*

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

[Acts 2:22](#) *ESV*

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—

[Acts 1:18](#) *ESV*

(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

[John 20:17](#) *ESV*

Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

[John 17:26](#) *ESV*

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

[John 17:6-8](#) *ESV*

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

[John 17:1](#) *ESV*

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

[John 16:28](#) *ESV*

I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

[John 16:5](#) *ESV*

But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

[John 14:31](#) *ESV*

But I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

[John 14:28](#) *ESV*

You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

[John 14:1](#) *ESV*

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

[John 12:49](#) *ESV*

For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

[John 10:35](#) ESV

If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—

[John 10:29](#) ESV

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand.

[John 8:28](#) ESV

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

[John 8:14](#) ESV

Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

[John 7:28](#) ESV

So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.

[John 7:16](#) ESV

So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

[John 6:32](#) ESV

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

[John 6:11](#) ESV

Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.

[John 5:31](#) ESV

If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true.

[John 5:31-32](#) ESV

If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true. There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true.

[John 5:30](#) ESV

"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

[John 5:19](#) ESV

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

[John 4:19](#) ESV

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

[John 3:16](#) ESV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

[John 1:18](#) ESV

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

[Luke 24:18-19](#) ESV

Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

[Luke 19:11-21](#) ESV

As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said, therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ...

[Luke 18:18-19](#) ESV

And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

[Luke 11:1-4](#) ESV

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

[Luke 10:21](#) ESV

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

[Luke 9:48](#) ESV

And said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the great one.”

[Luke 9:28](#) ESV

Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

[Luke 9:18](#) ESV

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

[Luke 7:16](#) ESV

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”

Don't Assume

It may be the best-known Bible verse in our culture: “Judge not, that you be not judged” ([Matt. 7:1](#)).

As one of our society's most popular verses, it is also one of the most misunderstood. Too many people, non-Christian and Christian, take Jesus' words to be a blanket rejection of all moral evaluation. But given that Jesus alludes to his opponents as dogs and pigs five verses later, it's safe to think Jesus wasn't condemning every kind of judgment. We see from the rest of the Gospel that [Matthew 7:1](#) is not inconsistent with strong criticisms, negative statements, church discipline, and warnings about hell. Judgmentalism is not the same as making ethical and doctrinal demands or believing others to be wrong.

And yet, after all the necessary qualifications, we must not mute this important command. As sinners, we are apt to assume the worst about people. We are eager to find favorable comparisons that make ourselves look good at the expense of others. We are quick to size people up and think we have them figured them out. But I have learned over the years—both as the giver and receiver of judgmental assumptions—that it's best not to assume.

Don't assume you know all the facts after hearing one side of the story.

Don't assume the person is guilty just because strong charges are made against him.

Don't assume you understand a blogger's heart after reading one post.

Don't assume that famous author, preacher, athlete, politician, or local celebrity won't read what you write, and don't assume they won't care what you say.

Don't assume the divorced person is to blame for the divorce.

Don't assume the single mom isn't following Jesus.

Don't assume the guy from the Mission is less of a man or less of a Christian.

Don't assume the pastor looking for work is a bad pastor.

Don't assume the church that struggles or fails is bad.

Don't assume you'd be a better mom.

Don't assume bad kids are the result of bad parents.

Don't assume your parents are clueless.

Don't assume everyone should drop everything to attend to your needs, and don't assume no one will.

Don't assume the rich are ungenerous.

Don't assume the poor are lazy.

Don't assume you know what they are all like after meeting one or two of their kind.

Don't assume you should read between the lines.

Don't assume you have interpreted the emotions of the email correctly.

Don't assume everyone has forgotten about you.

Don't assume they meant to leave you off the list.

Don't assume everyone else has a charmed life.

Don't assume a bad day makes her a bad friend.

Don't assume the repentance isn't genuine.

Don't assume the forgiveness isn't sincere.

Don't assume God can't change you.

Don't assume God can't love you.

Don't assume God can't love them.

Don't Assume To Assume

Summary: ASSUME - The biggest trick the devil plays on God's children is the assumption.

Don't Assume to Assume

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea, and let your nay be nay lest thou fall into condemnation.

1. to take for granted or without proof.

ASSUME - The biggest trick the devil plays on God's children is the assumption.

Assuming what people think.

Assuming somethings wrong.

Assuming things are just the way they are and nothing will ever change.

2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Don't let your mind go there when:

1. Sin in your life.

2. Hanging with ungodly people.

3. Emotional.

4. Medicated.

5. Not in the Spirit.

WE MUST SEE PEOPLE THE WAY GOD SEE'S THEM

Psalms 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the East is from the West, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Compassion

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.

Matthew 9:36.. when he saw the multitude he was moved with compassion.

Matthew 14:14 moved with compassion

Matthew 15:32... I have compassion for the multitude.

Matthew 20:34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes.

Mark 1:41 Jesus moved with compassion out forth his hand and touched him

Mark 6:34... he was moved with compassion because they were as sheep not having a shepherd

To ASSUME

2. to take upon oneself; undertake:

3. to take over the duties or responsibilities of:

4. to take on (a particular character, quality, mode of life, etc.); adopt:

5. to take on; be invested or endowed with:

Psalm 18:37

I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift a standard against him.

Standard - 5. standards, those morals, ethics, habits, etc., established by authority, custom, or an individual as acceptable:

Luke 9: 1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and the earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Don't Assume

Summary: A sermon for a school service of teenagers, not necessarily believers.

I want to begin this morning by thinking about assumptions. If I asked you what is about six inches long and produces a white, frothy substance when rubbed back and forth and in and out, I'm sure you'd all make an assumption, when the answer is a toothbrush. Assumptions cause all kinds of chaos every day. Religion is also beset by assumptions. Often people tell me that they're good people, even though they don't attend church, clearly assuming that goodness is what God wants of us. If you regard making people good as the purpose of religion, then you're in for a shock when you think about Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector. We are told that two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, a member of a strict religious group, and a pillar of the community. Today's equivalent might be a successful businessman who was also a leading member of his church and a local councilor. You get the picture. The second man was at the other end of the social scale - a tax collector for the Roman authorities. The tax collector was not employed by the Romans but was a privatized contractor whose only payment would be whatever he managed to extract from the people on his list over and above what he had undertaken to pass on to the Roman authorities. It was a system with built-in dishonesty and corruption, and it placed tax-collectors outside respectable society. Today's equivalent would be someone involved in a criminal protection racket - the kind of dodgy character we used to see on *The Bill*. Note, again, that the Pharisee was a good person and the tax collector was a bad person. The Pharisee went and stood up at the front of the Temple and prayed. The problem was that his prayers were not addressed to God, but to show off his virtues to everyone listening. He defined himself by negatives - not greedy, not dishonest, not an adulterer. His only positives were things he did better than others - fasting more often than was necessary, giving more money than the law said he had to., He was rather smug, and the kind of religious person who is quite unpleasant. The tax collector must have been a desperate man and a social outcast. He was probably longing to break out of it, but without being able to because public repentance would involve returning the money dishonestly obtained, which he had already spent. So he stands at the back, hangs his head, and all he can say is, God, have mercy on me, sinner that I am. And Jesus said that the honest prayer of the tax collector was much more what God wanted. So, we should never assume anything, least of all what God wants of us. The Pharisee had missed the mark. How can we avoid getting making the same mistakes?

- 1. Remember you're only human, as is everyone else.**
- 2. Don't distance yourself from people different from you. It cuts you off from other humans.**
- 3. Jesus is the perfect one. Look at his example.**
- 4. Remember a simple and honest prayer: God, have mercy on me, sinner that I am.**
- 5. Accept and love yourself, because God accepts and loves you.**

So, I end with some slightly adapted words we sometimes use in our Communion service:

Come to God, not because you must, but because you may; come not to testify that you are righteous, but that you try to love and follow God; Come not because you are strong, but because you are weak; Come not because you have any claim on God's rewards, but because in your frailty and brokenness you need God's mercy and help; Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and pray for a Spirit. Amen.

Assumptions

Summary: What we assume about others can be wrong!

John 18:33-38-Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate, therefore, said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause, I was born, and for this, cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

A professional carpet-layer stepped back to survey a newly installed carpet. Reaching into his shirt pocket for a cigarette, he realized the pack was missing. At the same time, he noticed a lump under the carpet in the middle of the room, about the size of the missing cigarette pack. There was no way to retrieve his cigarette pack from under the attached carpet without ripping everything up and starting over. Finally, he decided to beat the object flat, thereby destroying any evidence of his mistake. Gathering his tools, the carpet layer walked out to his truck. There on the seat of his truck was the mislaid pack of cigarettes. As he lit one up, the homeowner hurried out of the house and asked, "Hey, have you seen my son's gerbil?"

The photographer for a national magazine was assigned to get photos of a great forest fire. Smoke at the scene hampered him and he asked his home office to hire a plane. Arrangements were made and he was told to go at once to a nearby airport, where the plane would be waiting. When he arrived at the airport, a plane was warming up near the runway. He jumped in with his equipment and yelled, "Let's go! Let's go!" The pilot swung the plane into the wind and they soon were in the air. "Fly over the north side of the fire," yelled the photographer, "and make three or four low-level passes." "Why?" asked the pilot. "Because I'm going to take pictures," cried the photographer. "I'm a photographer and photographers take pictures!" After a pause, the pilot said, "You mean you're not the instructor?"

John was driving home late one night when he picked up a hitchhiker. As

they rode along, he began to be suspicious of his passenger. John checked to see if his wallet was safe in the pocket of his coat that was on the seat between them, but it wasn't there! So he slammed on the brakes, ordered the hitchhiker out, and said, "Hand over the wallet immediately!" The frightened hitchhiker handed over a billfold, and John drove off. When he arrived home, he started to tell his wife about the experience, but she interrupted him, saying, "Before I forget, John, do you know that you left your wallet at home this morning?"

Pilate assumed that the person standing before him was just another Jew! By the way, He looked, by the way, He dressed! Pilate assumed because Jesus didn't retaliate when the guards hit him and place a crown of thorns on His head and bowed down and mocked Him, that He had no power! Pilate assumed that he was the judge and not the other way around! In other words, he did not know he was bringing judgment upon himself. Pilate assumed that he was in control but little did he know that God was in control of this situation. John 19:10-11-Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have the power to crucify You, and the power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." The Jewish leaders assumed they had gotten rid of this trouble maker once and for all, little did they know what they had truly done! I wonder what we assume about others? Do we see people as they stand before us, just what they look like or how they dress or do we see what God sees in them? Do we see faults in others or do we see potential in others? Do we assume the best in others or do we assume the worst in others?