



St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church

11308 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1K9

JUDGE NOT! (LUKE 6:37)

THE ROCK

THE LORD IS MY ROCK.

- **PSALM 18:2**



JUDGE NOT!

- **LUKE 6:37**

REFLECTION ON (LUKE 6:37)




*“Judge not, and you shall not be judged.
Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”*

By E.S.

One of the greatest commandments Jesus Christ has taught us is to love one another. A Christ-like love means forgiving and being patient with those around us, even those who hold different beliefs. In doing so, we glorify God’s name and lead by example. While we can not ensure the reciprocation of that love, the Apostle Luke teaches us that it is not our place to judge those around us. As human beings, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) Therefore, how can we criticize others for their faults while we have many ourselves? We can not turn a blind eye to our own shortcomings but be quick to reprehend others. Although this requires discipline and self-control, we must offer our compassion, grace, and mercy just as our Lord provides for us so that we may not be judged when Christ returns to Earth.

To condemn others is similar to being judgmental. The Apostle Luke tells us to ‘condemn not,’ meaning we should not form negative, often self-righteous, opinions about those who fall into temptation. As the Holy Bible teaches us, **“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3)** We must avoid being hypocritical by condemning ourselves constantly before God. However, because of Christ’s forgiving nature and our faith in Him who redeemed us, we hope and pray that we won’t be condemned. As followers of Christ, we are to spread the truth humbly in the same way Christ did on Earth.





“**Father, forgive
them, for they
do not know
what they do.**”

Luke 23:34

In the last line of this verse, we are called to forgive others. Jesus Christ is the greatest model of forgiveness. While being crucified on the cross, Jesus says, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Luke 23:34)** In our lives, we are often wronged but we are called to forgive nonetheless. We may even wrong the Lord, whether knowingly or unknowingly, yet we all take the opportunity, through the sacrament of Confession, to ask to be forgiven. It is a true blessing to have a merciful and compassionate God. This is the type of Christ-like love and forgiveness we are called to imitate.

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