



MESSAGE: Stinking to High Heaven TEACHER: Jim Firth DATE: 1/14/2024

[WATCH >> The Loneliness Epidemic, Part 3](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

In this message, what resonated with you?

QUESTION #2

In this message, what did you wrestle with?

QUESTION #3

Loneliness is being celebrated as the new norm. Can you think of other ways our culture promotes a perspective different from God's word when it comes to loneliness?

QUESTION #4

Why do you think we have a heightened awareness of other people's weaknesses but not our own?

QUESTION #5

Read Matthew 7:3-5 below. Why do you think it's important that Jesus used the example of an eye, rather than a speck of dirt on your clothes, for example?

Matthew 7:3-5, NIV

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

QUESTION #6

We all have blind spots and struggle with hypocrisy sometimes. How does this contribute to the problem of loneliness and isolation in the world today?

QUESTION #7

Have you found it to be true that what bothers you about someone else is actually what you're struggling with?

QUESTION #8

People tend to seek to satisfy their need to be important in destructive ways. They root their identity in the opinions of other people. What are some examples of this? How can someone satisfy their need to be important in healthy, God honoring ways?

QUESTION #9

God gave His Son for us even though we don't deserve it. Repenting of your sins and choosing to love imperfect people anyway can eliminate loneliness. Have you experienced this?

TEACHING SCRIPTURE CITATIONS

Matthew 7:3-5, NIV

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, **first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.**

Matthew 6:1-4, NIV

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

1 Corinthians 4:7, NIV

For who makes you different from anyone else? **What do you have that you did not receive?** And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

James 5:20, GNT

...remember this: whoever turns a sinner back from the wrong way will save that sinner's soul from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.