

## **In Between**

June 22-27, 2026

### **Monday June 22, 2026**

Scripture - Matthew 7:3 Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye?

Observation: The entire gospel reading for the day (v.1-5), is on this concept of judging others. While encouraging people to stop judging, Jesus tells the crowd basically (v 4) to look in the mirror first at yourself before being too quick to heap disdain on others. Then Jesus tells those listening that you are a "hypocrite" (v5) if you are self-aware of your own degree of failings/shortcomings, but still resort to prejudgement of others.

Narrative: At my own most judgmental moments, I think the world is built a fair amount on hypocrisy >> holding others to a standard that they (people, institutions, etc.) do not follow themselves or find an escape clause and rationalize it for themselves. Then, I come across typically quiet, humble individual(s) that renew my faith in humanity.

Question: Do you know an individual, group, or institution that is sincerely humble?

### **Tuesday June 23, 2026**

Scripture - Matthew 7:11-12 Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces. Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.

Observation: Right after Jesus warns people not to prejudge too easily, he continues here to tell them to be careful and you may have reason/justification to treat others as you would have them treat you...if they behaved, acted in a less than honorable (holy) way.

Narrative: And there lies the often difficult and importance of discernment and prayer to "not pull the trigger" on people and their behavior too quickly through virtues such as prudence, temperance, love, and charity.

Question: On average where would you put yourself on the judgment of others scale from quick/harsh/presumptive .....to..... patient/loving/temperate?

**Wednesday June 24, 2026** Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Scripture - Luke 1:57-58 When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.

Observation: What would follow is the presentation of the child (John) in the temple which included his naming by Elizabeth (as Zechariah was mute from disbelief in God's plan as Elizabeth was "advanced in years"). Zechariah would then confirm his name as John on a written tablet provided, at which Zechariah would regain his speech. Best guess is that Elizabeth was past normal child bearing age and in her 50's. Note: life expectancy in Jesus' time was 30-35 years due to high infant and child mortality. But if you survived early life, it was possible for an individual to live into their 50's and 60's, and some even up to 80 yrs of age (info taken from forensic anthropology of that era/location).

Narrative: Good luck, good fortune, divine providence ... all at times seem to come "out of left field," and make us ponder in bewilderment and awe. I personally hold such moments close, and believe in what is called "fear of the Lord," that sense of awe and wonder in something larger than myself.

Question: Have you personally or in others close to you, been so fortunate to have such an experience in life? To this day, what does it mean to you and/or how do you interpret/classify it?

**Thursday June 25, 2026**

Scripture - Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Observation: The end of the Sermon on the Mount, which includes Jesus' continuing on by saying that some will say all the right things but not enter the Kingdom, and therefore build your house (life) on a solid foundation.

Narrative: The key phrase for me is "will of my Father." Yes there are great pretenders, who say all the right things, but the will of God is far from being realized in their life. We have all been there in life is my guess, The point is to be aware and redirect ourselves.

Question: What do you do to revisit, ponder, and renew doing the "will my the father?"

**Friday June 26, 2026** Scripture - Matthew 8:3b-4 His leprosy was cleansed immediately. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

Observation: on coming down from the hill country from the preaching the Sermon on the Mount with a great crowd, a leper did Jesus homage and asked to be healed. FYI: According to Leviticus 14, a healed leper was required to undergo a rigorous, multi-day purification ritual to be declared ritually clean and reintegrated into society. This involved inspection by a priest outside the camp, washing clothes, shaving all body hair, bathing, offering specific sacrifices (birds, lambs, oil, and flour), and applying blood and oil to their ear, thumb, and toe.

Narrative: ...and you thought Catholics are ritualistic! Seriously though, the point is that Jesus did not want the attention drawn purely to himself (idol worship), but to the greater message and honor of which the healing points... the love of the Father and fulfillment of the Law (Jesus lived and died as a Jew afterall).

Question: "Give credit where credit is due." Who do you know that points to something larger than themselves (in humility to God, in group effort, etc.) when others try to give the accolades to them personally and solely?

**Saturday June 27, 2026** Scripture - Matthew 8:5-8 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.

Observation: A bit of geography here >> think of the continent of Africa as the rough shape of the sea of Galilee. At the 9:30 position is Magdala (where Mary Magdalene was from). At roughly 10:00 is Bethsaida where Peter was originally from and then moved to Capernaum (11:00 position) with brother Andrew and their Mother-in-law. Now Nazareth is not on the Sea but at about the 8:30 position to the west (about 20 miles as the crow flies from Capernaum). Finally, in the general Nazareth area are other notables of Jesus' time such as Cana and Mt Tabor (the Transfiguration).

Narrative: Aah, the words we say just before receiving Holy Communion > from a Centurion who had such "fatih" that the Centurion's servant would be healed.

Question: Does it strike you as odd that we repeat the words of the Centurion, who as a Roman soldier, Jesus would be naturally very leary of, if not antagonist toward normally? Why or why not does such a phrase, given its source, seem fitting for us ...?