I Am Not of this World

I. Check-in and self-assessment

I am . . . ?

I want to be . . . ?

II. Jesus' different way of thinking about things

But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." *(John 8:23-24)*

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. . . . *(John 8:3-6)*

Do you see a little of yourself in the Pharisees? How about the woman?

. . . But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." *(John 8:6-7)*

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." *(John 8:10-11)*

III. Where is our head/heart living?

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. (*John 17:11-13)*

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (*John 17:14-15)*

IV. Renewing our mind

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (*Rom 12: 1-2)*

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (*Rom 12:3)*

How would you generally rate yourself on a scale between self-centered and other-centered?

When you're under some sort of stress, do you catch yourself in that moment thinking more about yourself or others?