

Luke 6:37-42

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." 39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. 41 Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

Today we will continue with the *Sermon on the Plain*. The Scripture is part of a very important sermon from Jesus that is rich in wisdom. To be someone that lives by the standards of Jesus requires changing your life and personality with a whole new attitude. These standards of excellence that are established by Jesus stretch beyond human comfort and into divine standards. Jesus is teaching people to live a new kind of life by following divine standards. Jesus is all about love and salvation and teaches us what it takes to live a righteousness life. I have mentioned several times that it is hard to follow rules but the Christian is a changed person that lives with a change of behavior, attitudes, and personality. The Christian is a new person with a new identity that is like Christ. As such, it is not hard to follow. It is not hard to be like Christ when you are focused on Christ.

You have to be a changed person to live by today's Scripture. When Jesus teaches to forgive and not judge or condemn, he teaches us to be like him. This is crucial to our understanding of salvation because we tend to live by human standards and judge by human standards.

I knew a man that had a problem that was bothering him. His nephew begged him to help him get a house. So, the man spent a considerable amount of time and money helping his nephew. After the nephew moved into the house, the nephew had nothing to do with him. The nephew took advantage of him for his money. The man needed someone to talk to because his heart and soul burned with disappointment, anger, and resentment. He was troubled because his pastor told him that God will judge him for not forgiving his nephew. He could not understand how he would be the one that is judged when he is the one that was taken advantage of.

The deal is that both will be judged. The one that mistreats you will be judged and the one that holds a grudge will be judged. We tend to think of ourselves as righteous but we are not exempt from judgment. When our thinking is based on human standards then our thinking is logical based on a human perspective. The divine view runs contrary to human view; forgive, do not judge, and do not condemn. Forgiveness helps you feel better about yourself and significantly improves your satisfaction in life. You feel better about others and you have significantly improved relationships. You are rewarded now by being happier and more satisfied, and you will be rewarded by God.

We see ourselves according to human standards. We judge our righteousness and our obedience to God based on our own perception. But God is the one that judges us and God judges us based on divine standards. When God judges us, the tool that God uses is a positive correlation to how we judge others.

I was driving to Florida and I stopped to get gas and a man drove up to the pump on the other side of mine. Obviously he was an immigrant because he spoke English with about fifty percent fluency. "Please help, no gas, no money." I said "I am sorry, I don't carry cash." This was a lie because I don't want strangers to know that I am carrying cash. I know people that have been robbed at gun point and I do not want to be the next victim. I said "you are driving, where is your wallet?" He said "lost it, you take this." He put a gold ring and a gold bracelet in my hand and said "give me gas." It was probably fake gold and even if it was real I did not want to take it from him. So, I handed them back to him and said "I do not want this." He insisted, "no, no, you take, need gas." The judging that Jesus condemns is ... this man is a con artist, he is trying to rip me off, he is an illegal immigrant, avoid him. The judging that Jesus does not condemn is ... he may be a con man, he may be trying to rip me off, but he may be telling me the truth and really is in need of help. The solution is to help those that are in need of help but be careful because there is a lot of danger out there.

There are times when you have to judge. I judged the man's immigration status because that comes natural due to his inability to speak fluent English. What Jesus condemns is when you look down on other people, when you point your fingers at the other person as the sinner, and when you think of yourself as being better than others. Do not judge others negatively with attitudes of condemnation and superiority. We see clearly when we see people the way Jesus sees them. We see clearly when we see others the way Jesus teaches us to see them. The way Jesus teaches us to see people, is the way that Jesus sees them, not through eyes of criticism, despise, and judgment but through eyes of love, compassion, and acceptance.