

Steve Greenberg's Handout, Sunday Morning, October 12, 2025

Week 14: Luke 6:37-49 Judge Not, Condemn Not, Forgive!

Luke 6:37-42 Judge Not and Can the Blind Lead the Blind-Parable? (Parallel passage: Matt. 7:1-5, 16-18)

Luk 6:37 "Judge not (or do not judge others self-righteously), and you shall not be judged (as you judge others so you will be judged). Condemn not (do not condemn others when you are guilty and unrepentant), and you shall not be condemned (as you condemn others it will come back to you). Forgive and you will be forgiven (Lit: release, pardon others when they repent and ask you for forgiveness, just like God does for you).

Mat 7:1 (Jesus said)"Judge not, that you be not judged.

Mat 7:2 "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

Don't be one who is constantly focusing on other people's faults. Forgive, stop judging and condemning and try to seek the positive well-being of others, pray for them.

Judge not, and you shall not be judged: Jesus is warning against self-righteous, critical attitude evaluating others while ignoring your own shortcomings (faults). Having a judgmental attitude reveals your heart and invites the same standard to be applied to you by God and others.

This is not a command to stop using godly wisdom, common sense, and moral courage together with God's written word to discern right from wrong, to distinguish between morality and immorality, and to judge doctrinal truth. There are many judgments that are not only legitimate, but are commanded (cf John 7:24; 1 Cor 5:5, 12; Gal 1:8, 9; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 10); however, you cannot judge another if you are committing the same type of sin.)

Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned:

Condemn" here means to pronounce someone as worthy of punishment.

If you make it a habit of condemning others, you're inviting the same merciless standard upon yourself.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven:

Mat 18:21-22 reminds us of when Peter came to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to Peter, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

A heart willing to forgive reflects God's heart. If you will not forgive others, it reveals a misunderstanding of God's forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not about ignoring sin, but being willing to pardon when someone repents, just as God does to those who ask.

Pro 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife (**quarrels**), But love covers all sins (**chose love and forgiveness, overlooking another's faults**).

1Pet 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Pro 17:9 He who covers a transgression (**or offense**) seeks love, but he who repeats (**or gossips about**) a matter separates friends.

Jesus was asked by one of the disciples, teach us to pray

Luk 11:1 Now it came to pass, as He (**Jesus**) was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Luk 11:2 So He (**Jesus**) said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Luk 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Luk 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation But deliver us from the evil one."

Jesus taught them how to pray, then He added this conclusion.

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luk 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over (**overflowing blessings**) will be put (**given**) into your bosom (**lap**). For with the same measure (**or standard**) that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luk 6:39 And He (**Jesus**) spoke a parable (**Gk: parable**) to them: "Can the blind lead (**or guide**) the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch (**pit or hole**)?"

Cross-reference:

Mat 15:14 (**Jesus said**) "Let them (**Pharisees**) alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

A parable is a short, figurative story or saying that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson.

Jesus is warning that if someone is blind to God's truth, and others follow him blindly, both will end up in ruin (a ditch). It is a visual illustration or metaphor warning people to be careful of who you are following or listening to too, are they walking in the truth or are they ignorant of the truth (blind).

This also reminds us of being blind to one's own faults while judging others. Pride blinds a person and is at odds with God (Heb 4:6, 1 Pet 5:5)

You who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

Rom 2:18 and (You who) know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law,

Rom 2:19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

Rom 2:20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

Rom 2:21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

Rom 2:22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

Rom 2:23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

Luk 6:40 "A disciple (**or student**) is not above (**or greater than**) his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained (**completely trained**) will be like his teacher (**or reach his teacher's level**).

Jesus example:

Jhn 13:14 "If I then (am), your Lord and Teacher, (I) have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Jhn 13:15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you (**a great example of servant leadership**).

Jhn 13:16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

Luk 6:41 "And why do you look at the speck (**suggest an attitude of superiority, pride**) in your brother's eye, but do not perceive (**notice, look or consider**) the plank (**log**) in your own eye?

Parallel passage in Matthew:

Mat 7:3 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

Christians have to be careful of condemning others for things they themselves are guilty of doing.

Why do you look: It is sad when someone is always quick to notice flaws in others, but blind to their own faults?

2Cor 13:4 For though He (**Jesus**) was crucified in weakness (**by yielding willingly to His Fathers will**), yet He lives by the power of God (**resurrection**). For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

2Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

Jesus is not saying we should ignore wrongdoing:

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Dealing with a Sinning Brother

Mat 18:15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

Luk 6:42 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank (**or log**) that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Correlation passage:

Rom 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable (without excuse), O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

AMP Version: Therefore you have no excuse or justification, every one of you who hypocritically and continually judges and condemns others; for in passing judgment on another person, you condemn yourself, because you who judge from a position of arrogance or self-righteousness are habitually practicing the very same things which Jesus is denouncing.

Practice being a gracious, merciful, humble helper, not a self-righteous accuser.

Jesus is saying examine yourself before passing judgment, He demands honesty, humility, love and integrity within our own lives. Jesus is not condemning all discernment or correction, but we need to be led by the Holy Spirit and grace.

Luke 6:43-45 A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit (Parallel passage: Matt. 7:15-20)

Luk 6:43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Jesus is using a metaphor (**or illustration**) from agriculture to make a spiritual point: just as you can identify a tree by the kind of fruit it bears, you can recognize people—especially false and true leaders or teachers—by the results (**or fruits**) of their actions and teachings. Fruit refers to a person's character, behavior, words they speak and the effect or influence on others. You would not find nourishing fruit like grapes or figs on thorny and **thistles** like plants, you shouldn't expect truth, love, or godliness from someone whose life and teachings are full of secrets, deception, selfish ambition, or manipulation.

Parallel passage Matthew (let scripture interpret scripture)

Mat 7:15 "Beware of false prophets (**false teachers & false leaders**), who come to you in sheep's clothing (**appear gentle, loving, truthful, innocent, all a deceptive tactic**), but inwardly they are ravenous (**ferocious, selfish, evil**) wolves.

Mat 7:16 "You will know (**recognize**) them by their fruits (**manipulated doctrines and self-focus**). Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles (**spiny prickly plants, weeds, which bear no fruit**)?

Mat 7:17 "Even so, every good tree (**or healthy tree**) bears good fruit, but a bad tree (**or unhealthy tree**) bears bad fruit.

Tree: a person with a good, pure, sincere, godly heart will show it through Godly behavior, and words, in the same way a person with a corrupt or unrepentant heart will eventually show it through bad behavior or harmful and ungodly words.

Fruit: a person's words, actions, choices, will reveal good fruit (**sweet, useful, selfless, nourishing**) and bad fruit (**bitter, harmful, useless, rotten**).

Fruit is the outward evidence of an inward change and spiritual condition (**born again**), seen in a person's actions, words, character, influence, and teachings. It reflects whether their life is aligned with God or not?

Observing good and bad fruit allows one to judge wisely, themselves and others. The fruit of a good tree is forgiving, giving to others, loving one's enemies and not judging and condemning others.

Fruit of the Spirit is love

Gal 5:22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Love and Truth go together:

Eph 5:9 for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth (Love rejoices with the truth, 1 Cor 13:6).

Real love doesn't flatter or enable sin; it speaks truth, even when it's hard — but always with grace (Eph 4:15: speaking the truth in love). A supposed loving message that avoids or twists the truth is not love at all, it's a false fruit that leads people astray and condemned.

Rev 3:19 "As many as I love (agapō), I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Heb 12:6 For whom the LORD loves (agapā) He chastens (disciplines and corrects), And scourges every son whom He receives."

Heb 12:7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

Luk 6:44 "For every tree is known (**and identified**) by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns (**thorn bushes**), nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.

Parallel passage in Matthew:

Mat 7:19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

A Tree is known by its Fruit

Mat 12:33 (**Jesus said**) "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

Luk 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil (**wicked and depraved**) treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

This teaching isn't just about behavior, it's understanding the source, what is in your heart. Is the person born again and has a new heart? Is the person drawing on his old nature instead of from the new nature? The true nature of people's hearts can often be seen over time when people speak without thinking or by their behavior. Our words say more about us than we think, and will reveal good and evil.

What happens when a person gets born again

Eze 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Application: what kind of "fruit" is my life producing?

What am I putting in my heart and mind? **Garbage in garbage out**

What does their teaching produce in others?

Does it lead a person or people closer to Christ or confusion, legalism, or selfish ambition?

Do you teach where the resource is to live the victorious Christian life?

Jhn 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Luke 6:46-49 Build Your Foundation on the Rock (Parallel passage: Matt. 7:21-27)

Luk 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do (**or practice**) the things which I say (**or tell you to do**)?

Saying Jesus is Lord is not enough, intellectual knowledge is not enough, lip service is meaningless, you can't just call Jesus "Lord" and not obey or ignore His words? The true test is whether His words shape how you live, your actions, relationships, decisions, and priorities, is He included in everything you do! Are you praying and talking to Him and reading and studying His Word.

Luk 6:47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears (**listens**) My sayings and does them (**obeys and practices them**), I will show you whom he is like:

Be a doers of God's word, not just a listener without action

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

James 1:24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man (**or wicked person**) he was.

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful (**or careless**) hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Luk 6:48 "He is like a man (**wise man**) building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded (**built securely**) on the rock.

Luk 6:49 "But he who heard and did nothing (**did not obey**) is like a man (**foolish man**) who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell (**collapsed**). And the ruin of that house was great (**completely destroyed**)."

Application: true discipleship is not just about what you say, but about what you do and say they need to be alignment, how does what you say get lived out and affect others.

Correlation passage:

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never (ever) knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

If you love Me, keep my Word

Jhn 14:21 (Jesus said)"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Jhn 14:23 ..."If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

End: