

(Luke 6:37~42)

At the heart of this passage, is the question...³⁹ *...Can the blind lead the blind?* Can someone who cannot see, able to lead others who cannot see? The answer is obviously, no. Rather than lead others; he needs someone to lead him. If the blind leads the blind, will they not both fall into the ditch? Absolutely. The picture here is that of destruction, and death. The “*ditch*” here refers to a large hole in the ground, that of a well or cistern. His point is, if the blind follow the blind, the leader will not see the hole, thus fall in it, and by following him, the rest will one by one fall in as well. One by one, they will drop off, unbenounced to those in the line of the danger that awaits each one.

So what’s the point? Once again, Jesus is warning his disciples of the dangers of the Scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day. It is to say, you better not follow their ways, for they are the ways of death. Though they profess to be wise, though they profess to be enlightened, though they profess to be teachers of truth, teachers of the way of God...they are not! They are as blind men, men that can not see where they are going!

To iterate his point, Jesus says...⁴⁰ *The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.*

That is to say, you can know what a man’s master is like, by the man!
The word “*disciple*” simple means *student*, while “*master*” simply means “*teacher*.”

The student is not above his teacher...***at best***...he shall be just like him... A student sitting under a teacher, will never know more than the teacher, at the very best, he may know as much as his teacher, he may be on the same level as his teacher, but he’ll never be above his teacher. The reason is very simple, the students growth is in proportion to the teachers knowledge. When you sit under someone, learning from them, you cannot learn more than they know...*right?* They are only able to teach you what they know. Therefore, the best you can do, is attain to the same level as your teacher, not above. Given that, the emphasis here is, that to disciple someone is basically make another you. You pour out your life into them, thus basically shaping and molding their lives after yours.

The point is, Jesus is telling his disciples that they can learn a lot about the kind of master the Scribes and Pharisees serve, by the way they live! Here the point is, given the character and nature of these men, given the fact that they are quick to judge, and quick to condemn, declares that these men are “blind” to WHO God really is, and what He is like!

As Jesus has just stated here, God is merciful and full of compassion towards men, even his enemies! He not only loves those who love him, but he loves those who hate him! He is kind to both the thankful and the unthankful, he is good to the evil and the good, he makes his sun to rise on the good and the evil, he sends his rain on the just and the unjust! God shows his goodness and mercy to all men... Thus, so should we. His children should be characterized by the same qualities their father, right? Mercy, forgiveness, generosity, etc... Certainly not judgment and condemnation...that serves more to characterize the spirit of Satan, and his children!

Which is exactly the point Jesus is making here. The parable of the “*blind leading the blind*,” was a reference to the Scribes and Pharisees. These men were supposed to be the “*Spiritual leaders*” of Israel, the ones with “*spiritual insight*,” to God’s Holy Word, those who were to teach and lead the people in the ways of God. Here, Jesus is saying that if God were their master, they’d be like their master, they’d love their enemies, they’d do good to them that hate them, they’d bless those that curse them, and they’d pray for those who spitefully used them. In short, they’d be merciful...for He is merciful... But given the fact they judged and condemned their fellow man, (*their brothers and sisters*) revealed the fact they were

completely “*In the dark*” as far as their claims of knowing God! These men were “*spiritually blind*,” they were the “*blind leading the blind!*”

And what happens if the blind lead the blind? Right, they both fall into the ditch. This really serves as a good warning, that you better be careful who you listen too! You better make sure, that the one you’re following knows where he’s going, because wherever he ends up, so will you. Beloved, This warning is particularly important in our day, given that there are false teachers all around us. And like these Scribes and Pharisees, the false teachers of our day are leading people down the wrong path. The people think it’s the right path, but its not, it is a path then ends in destruction!

Listen, it’s vital that we understand what Jesus is saying here, so that we too can be able to determine the difference between the true and the false. Unless you know what to look for, you won’t be able to tell the difference! Outwardly, it’s hard to tell the difference, because outwardly, these men appear *righteous*. In Matthew’s account of this same sermon, Jesus warned of such men, as how they would appear to be Shepherds, but were anything but.

¹⁵Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.

Notice...here Jesus points to the same indicator, their nature! *Outwardly*, he says, *you won’t be able to tell the difference; they look like your typical shepherd*. But INWARDLY...lurks a much different creature! *¹⁵Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.* I think it goes without saying, that a “*wolf*” doesn’t make for a good overseer of sheep! Oh, he loves sheep, but not quiet the way a shepherd is supposed to love his sheep. The fact that he may LOOK like a shepherd, is of no benefit whatsoever, but rather, it only makes matters worse in that the sheep are more prone to follow him.

Jesus says, that false teachers will come, and they will do so have the appearance of being men of God. Given that, he exhorts us to be careful, and not be so gullible, as to embrace them based solely on the “*outward*” qualities of the man, but rather we are to be “*spiritually minded*,” by looking to his spirit, his nature to see what kind of man he is. It is *a man’s character that determines what kind of man he is*, not what he wears or what he does. The point Jesus is making is simply this, you will know what kind of man he really is, *by the spirit he bears!*

¹⁶Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Don’t be *deceived*...it is the “*Fruit*” that determines what kind of tree it is! The tag may say apple tree, and it may look like an apple tree...but if it bears oranges, rest assured, *it is an orange tree!*

The point here and in our passage in Luke this morning is the same... The nature and character of a man, reveals whether or not he truly knows the one, true, living God. If he truly knows God, he will bear the same character as his master, he will be humble and meek, merciful towards sinners...as God is merciful. But if he is prideful and arrogant and unloving towards sinners, bearing a judgmental and condemning spirit, then you KNOW that he is “*Spiritually Blind!*”

The “*Spiritually Blind*” man has an erroneous view of others and himself... He SEES himself as “*righteous*” by his so-called “*good living*.” He LOOKS upon others with the spirit of superiority! Manifested in being judgmental and condemning of them. This kind of spirit stems from the fact, the man is “*BLIND*” to the fact, that he is just as guilty as they are, he is in the same boat.

(Vs 41~42) Jesus alludes to their blindness to their own spiritual condition...

⁴¹ And why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceive not the beam that is in thine own eye? ⁴² Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself behold not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Here we find a very interesting truth...

Those who are “*Blind*”...are those who “*Clearly See*” the faults of others!

Jesus tells us, that those who are “*blind*” are quick to point out the faults of others! They are critical and condemning of others. Again, the reason being, they have never been humbled by their own sin! A *judging and condemning spirit* are the fruits from the tree of Pride! They are the fruits of “*Superiority.*” Rather than “SEEING” themselves as a guilty criminal, standing in need of the mercy of the court, they usurp the place of the JUDGE! Seeing themselves as judges, (*instead of the criminals they are*) they feel it is their duty to decree justice, by pronouncing men guilty, and handing down sentences!

⁴¹ And why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceive not the beam that is in thine own eye? ⁴² Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself behold not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

How is it, that you can so clearly SEE the faults in your brothers life, yet not SEE yours?

Who are you tell your brother what's wrong with him, when you yourself, can't SEE all the wrong in your life?

A *Mote* refers to a *splinter*, while *beam* refers to a *log*...

“Why are you looking at the “splinter” in your brothers' eye, when you have a “log” in your own!”

In other words, Who are you to be judging another man?

That's like the pot calling the kettle black... Who are you to judge and condemn someone else, when you're just as bad, if not worse! Before you go and judge someone else, why don't you start with yourself? You've got enough sin to deal with yourself, besides pointing out everyone else's... Jesus declares, if you will deal with your own first, then you'll “*see clearly*” to be able to help your brother. In other words, once you recognize all that's wrong with you, *you won't be so quick to point fingers, you won't be so quick to condemn others,* and then, you'll be truly able to help your brother...then, rather than judge and condemn your brother, you'll show mercy to him.

³⁷ Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: ³⁸ Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

All these speak to the fact that we, as God's children should be characterized as those who do not judge or condemn other sinners, but rather characterized by forgiveness, and love to our fellow man. People who are marked by our “*Generosity,*” (Give and it shall be given...) God is very generous to sinners, giving his sun and rain to both the just and unjust!

If we're critical and condemning of others...God will be critical and condemning of us! If you are hard on others...God will be hard on you! But the other side of that (***what he is calling for here***) is that if you will love others, as God loves them, if you will show mercy and compassion to others, God will return the favor! God has determined that, based on how we treat our fellow man, will determine how he will treat us. We literally hold *our on future* in our hands.

The point here is...we who profess to be “*God’s Children*” are to act like his children by showing love and mercy on sinners! Not simply because we are commanded to, but out of the awareness of our own sinfulness, our own guilt before God, and need of mercy and grace!

I don’t know about you...but I am a sinner, who stands in need of Mercy... I don’t want the Lord to be critical of me, for if God were to take a close, critical look at my life, let’s just say He would be completely just in pouring out His wrath on me! Thank God for His Mercy...