Discerning Not Condemning May 21, 2023

*Luke 6:37-42 Series: Through Jesus’ Eyes*

Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be. – Thomas à Kempis

Intro: An unexpected lecture on parenting

1. Condemned people condemn others
2. Discernment draws a line; condemnation writes someone off

v. 37 *Judge not, and you will not be judged …*

1 Corinthians 2:15 *The spiritual person judges all things …*

1 John 4:1 *do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God*

Matthew 18:15 *If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.*

1. God’s grace teaches us to be generous toward others

v. 37 *Judge not … condemn not … forgive*

v. 38 *give, and it will be given to you*

1. You’ll receive the grace you believe and show

v. 37 *you will not be judged … you will not be condemned*

vv. 37-38 *you will be forgiven … it will be given to you*

v. 38 *Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*

Matthew 6:14 *if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you*

James 5:9 *Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged …*

* When or how are you most tempted to be judgmental?
* What’s the difference between good judgment and bad? I.e., How do you know if you’re being discerning or condemning?
* Why is that only people who forgive will be forgiven?
1. You can’t lead people with your eyes closed
2. Are you leading people off a cliff?

v. 39 *Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?*

v. 40 *everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher*

1. Are your eyes on other people’s sins more than your own?

v. 41 *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*

v. 42 *How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye?*

* How can you know if you’re blind to the true condition of your heart? What can you do about it if you are?
* Why is it so easy to see other people’s sins but not our own?
* In warning of a pit and the risks of trying to do eye surgery on someone with a log in your eye, Jesus is saying that it’s dangerous to influence others without dealing with ourselves. Why would that be? What could happen?
1. You can’t help people if you won’t get help
2. The first step toward influence is a look in the mirror

v. 42 *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye …*

v. 42 *then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye*

Romans 2:21 *… you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself?*

1. We need God’s mercy and God’s family to deal with our logs

Psalm 146:8 *The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.*

v. 36 *Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*

James 5:16 *confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed*

1. God calls people who have received grace to give grace

Galatians 6:1 *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.*

2 Timothy 2:24-25 *And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth …*

* What has helped you grow in self-awareness?
* Why do we need people and not just God to deal with our logs?
* Is there anything in Galatians 6:1 or 2 Timothy 2:24-25 that could apply to how a husband and wife relate or how parents train their children?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Luke 6:43-49.

Notes