

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:36-42

Sermon Title: Uncommon Royalty: Mercy and Freedom!

36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. 37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. 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.” 39 He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. 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? 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? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. Luke 6:36-42 (ESV)

Vs. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. 37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

Jesus reminds his listeners that God is merciful and we are to “Be” merciful. God’s name is merciful:

Exodus 34:6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” 8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

Jesus was preaching to his disciples, Pharisees, Religious Zealots, and the Gentiles (people far from God based on their false gods, ethnicity, culture, or language). He was NOT giving out head knowledge or 5 easy steps for self-improvement.

****Jesus is preaching to those who are listening to him, and saying those who follow God and are true citizens of the Kingdom are “to be” - the “be”.****

There definitely are some thoughts, actions, and practices we cannot do because they cripple us from “be” or “being”. Not being like each other but being like our Father in Heaven.

Vs. 37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

Most of the people who quote this verse don’t understand what Jesus said. They seem to think (or hope) that Jesus commanded a universal acceptance of any lifestyle or teaching.

Luke 6:43-45, Jesus commanded us to know ourselves and others by the fruit of their life, and some sort of assessment is necessary for that. As followers of Jesus, we are called to demonstrate unconditional love, but we are NOT called to unconditional approval. We can love people who do things that should not be approved of without approving of what they are doing.

“This does not prohibit examining the lives of others, it certainly prohibits doing in the spirit it is often done. An example of unjust judgment was the disciples’ condemnation of the woman who came to anoint the feet of Jesus with oil (Matthew 26:6-13). They thought she wasted something; Jesus said she had done a good work that would always be remembered. They had a rash, harsh, unjust judgment.” Commentary

***** “Kingdom people won’t judge and condemn others according to their own standards” Dr. Tony Evans *****

Pastor David Guzik says:

- *We break this command when we think the worst of others.*
- *We break this command when we only speak to others of their faults.*
- *We break this command when we judge an entire life only by its worst moments.*
- *We break this command when we judge the hidden motives of others.*
- *We break this command when we judge others without considering ourselves in their same circumstances.*

- *We break this command when we judge others without being mindful that we ourselves will be judged.*

Jesus is teaching about this upside-down Kingdom where the citizens, those who know their Father live in a way they are:

- *be merciful and do not judge*
- *be merciful and do not condemn.*
- *be merciful and you will forgive.*

John 6:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

*Vs. 37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; **condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;***

Condemn not... forgive: Jesus expanded the idea beyond simply judging others. He also told us to condemn not and to freely forgive.

Judging and condemning are actions that override mercy.

So, who is not worthy of God’s mercy??? - Me (and you... and all of us) - That’s who!

Vs. 38 give, and it will be given to you. 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.”

Jesus doubles down and wants to Be Merciful and Be Generous. Sometimes we might be paralyzed to not “BE” generous because we are fearful of losing - or that somebody thinks we are Losers!!

I know from my journey following Jesus that I can’t out-give God (I would also say I believe you cannot out-give God). The text says it will be given to you, But please notice that this principle applies not only to material resources, but also to love, blessings, and forgiveness. When we give these things in the same spirit of generosity that God gives, we can never truly lose.

This is a crazy, powerful, revolutionary teaching from Jesus at this time: "BE" generous with love, forgiveness, and goodness to others. If we want more of those things from God, we should give more of them to others.

Commentators say: "rabbis in Jesus' time, God had two measures that He used to judge people. One was a measure of justice and the other was a measure of mercy."

John 2:14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Vs. 39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Two powerful illustrations about people not "Being" merciful.

Blind Leaders

Bonhoeffer quote:

*"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled as we are. But in the love of Christ, we know all about every conceivable sin and guilt; for we know how Jesus suffered, and how all men have been forgiven at the foot of the cross. **Christian love sees the fellow-man und the cross and therefore sees with clarity. If when we judged others, our real motive was to destroy evil, we should look for evil where it is certain to be found, and that is in our own hearts.** But if we are on the lookout for evil in others, our real motive is obviously to justify ourselves, for we are seeking to escape punishment for our own sins by passing judgment on others, and are assuming by implication that the Word of God applies to ourselves in one way and to others in another."*

*Vs. 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? 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? **You hypocrite**, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.*

When are not merciful like our Father in heaven - we are the Hypocrite's

Log Heads

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'

Vs. 46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

James 5:11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.