

## **Sermon 35: Discernment and the Need to Strengthen Others: Luke 6:36-42**

**Text: Luke 6:36-42** “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: 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. And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest 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..”

**Summary: Luke 6** teaches us that sound teaching leads to discernment and a humble approach to helping others while false teaching leads to self-righteous confrontations that lead to misery.

**Proposition:** God wants our lives to be built solidly on the gospel.

**Introduction:** “Judge not...”

- **Three important Christian duties:**

- **Develop discernment: 1 Thessalonians 5:21** “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good...” **2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth...”
- **Speak plainly about evil: 2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine..” **Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but

rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret...”

- **Address issues: Galatians 6:1-2** “If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted...”
- **Reject false teachers and build your life on the sure foundation of Christ’s doctrine.**
  - **Luke 6:26-27** “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. But I say unto you which hear...”
  - **Luke 6:46-49** “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them...is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great...”

**Truth 1: False teaching leads to misery and destruction: 6:39** “He spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch...”

- **Two details:**
  - **“He spake a parable to them:”** This section was directed at both false teachers, and the fruit of their false teaching.
  - **“Can the blind lead the blind?”** He was making the point that false teachers are spiritually blind and they are leading their followers into spiritual darkness.
- **Two serious pitfalls:**
  - **False teaching regarding the gospel: Self-righteousness leads to eternal destruction: Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the

kingdom of heaven...Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not...then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity..."

- **Isaiah 64:6** "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..."
  - **Romans 3:20** "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin..."
  - **Romans 10:3** "They being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God..."
  - **Romans 4:4** "To him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt."
  - **Ephesians 2:8-9** "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast..."
- **False teaching regarding sanctification: Self-righteousness leads to arrogance and contention.**
- Galatians 3:1-3** "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"
- An imbalanced view of self.
  - An unrealistic view of others.
  - God's humbling hand.
  - Potential loss at the Judgment Seat.

**Truth 2: Sound teaching leads to rich blessings: 6:40** "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master..."

- **We become like the one we follow:**
- **Embracing the truth about the gospel:** Humility and the gift of eternal life.

- **Matthew 5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- **James 4:6** “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble...”
- **Ephesians 2:4-7** “God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved...hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus...”
- **John 5:24** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life...”
- **Embracing the truth about sanctification:** Humility and genuine growth into Christlikeness
  - **Restored relationships: 6:37-38** “Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven...”
  - **Generosity and God’s provision:** 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...”

**Truth 3: What we believe shapes what we do: 6:41-42** “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest 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..”

- **The details:**

- **Why are you being a hypocrite: 6:41** “Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”
- **How can you help someone when your vision is being obstructed: 6:42**  
 “How canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”
- **You must deal with yourself before you can help others: 6:42** “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...”
- **The implications:**
  - God wants us to help one another grow.
  - It is impossible to help others grow if we aren't honest with ourselves and growing personally.
  - We must be genuine disciples of Christ to grow and help others.
- **The self-righteous paradigm:**
  - Rooted in false teaching or in an inconsistent approach to the truth.
  - It leads to self-righteous confrontations and misery.
- **The gospel centered paradigm: I am a sinner saved by grace:**
  - We are works in progress.
  - God wants us to grow into Christlikeness.
  - I am humbled when I see other's faults realizing I have many of the same sinful tendencies.
  - I long for redemptive outcomes.

### **Application:**

- Is my theology and my practice consistent?
- Am I seeing others faults as opportunities to see God's grace at work in my own life?
- Am I willing to live a life built solidly upon the gospel?

- Am I becoming like my master, the Lord Jesus Christ?