

THE EXAMINING PROCESS | Luke 6:37-49 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 8/31/2025

I. Examining Others (37-42) | II. Examine Your Fruit (43-45) | III. Examine Your Foundation (46-49)

INTRO: As we look at this last section of chapter 6, we will now learn of the examining process, which like the other attitude and actions must be rooted in **God's Agape Love!**

I. EXAMINING OTHERS (37-42) – Here Jesus gives us three simple Kingdom Agape principles...

A. Same Measure Principle (37-38) – **READ:** There are two things that LOVE doesn't do—it doesn't **JUDGE** and it doesn't **COMDEMN**.

1. Judge Not (37a): Jesus said, *"Judge not and you shall not be judged."* – To Judge means **to form an opinion or conclusion about some or something**. – The warning isn't about suspending all judgment or discernment, but about the way you judge! – **Jesus calls for careful consideration and restraint, rather than impulsive criticism (aka passing judgment)**

- Since you will be evaluated by the same standards you use to judge others, the idea encourages self-reflection, humility, and compassion. – **(1 Cor 4:5) Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.**

2. Condemn Not (37b): **Webster's** – 1: to **declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil** usually after weighing evidence and without reservation 2: **to pronounce guilty: CONVICT**

- Only God can do this, because He knows the thoughts, attitudes, and actions of every man! **(Heb 4:13), And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

3. Forgive (37c): Jesus gave an **illustration on forgiveness**, and how it should be applied towards others. – **(Matt 18:23-35), "...his master was angry and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him."**³⁵ **"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."** (Why should our Father forgive you if you are not forgiving?)

- As followers of Jesus Christ, He instructs us NOT be so quick to Judge, Condemn, or even show **Partial Forgiveness**, because **it will return to us exactly as you render!**
- **Judging, Condemning, and Forgiving**, is clustered together with the command from **(v.27-29); Love your enemies, Bless them, and Offer Yourself** to them. – **Both admonitions conclude with the instruction to GIVE (30, 38).**

4. Give (38): Giving is an act of MERCY! – Jesus just mentioned the need to *"be merciful, just as your Father is also merciful."* **(v.36)**. – His mention of **GIVING** in **(v.31)** speaks of OUR motives, but in **(v.38)**, **Jesus promises that MERCIFUL GIVING receive a recompense/reward for right kingdom living!**

- **(James 2:13 NLT), for there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you.**
- Jesus concludes His use of the **Same Measure Principle** by promising that **ABUNDANCE** will be **placed in your bosom** (i.e., fold of garment - Consider your measure! Is it **Plentiful** or is it **Puny**?)

Segway: *Jesus then used a few parables to bring clarity to His teachings...*

I call the first, the...

B. Same as the Rest Principle (39-40) – **READ:** Jesus' Parables were stories that were “cast alongside” a truth in order to illustrate a spiritual truth. – Many common expressions that we use today have biblical origins. Here... Jesus coins the phrase, “the blind leading the blind?” (v.39). The rhetorical question is accompanied with the only answer (v.40a), **YES!** “they both fall into the ditch.”

- **If both are blind**, then how can one be the leader of the other. – In fact, neither should lead nor follow each other because they can be mislead, or even seriously hurt.

1. Symbolically, this speaks of those who are Jesus' disciples:

- **If we follow each other** (man), while none of us has any light, then we will end up in a ditch (hell). – On the other hand, if we see ourselves as excellent guides, but fail to realize our own blindness, we will likewise only lead people into a ditch. (cf. Rom 2:17-22)
- **If we're true disciples of Jesus Christ**, we truly hear His teaching and do what He teaches us, then we will become perfectly trained to be just like Him.

2. Jesus' point is that: A person who follows a good teacher has the capacity to become like his teacher. Only if he or she follows the teachers training correctly.

- Jesus later alludes to this in (Matt 15:14; 23:16) contrasting the blind Pharisees who were leading the people astray!

P/A: Are you blind, just as the rest? Or are you following and practically applying the good teaching of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ? – Don't be like the rest, follow after the Best... **JESUS CHRIST! (40b)**

The second is known as the...

C. Speck & Plank Principle (41-42) – **READ:** This deals not only with our perception of others, but specifically with our own issues.

- **How can you help, if you cannot see clearly!** – It is quite easy for us to help others with their sin problem, so that we can cover up our own sins! – You will often find that people who are often criticizing others are guilty of something worse in their own lives.

CLOSING APPLICATION: The point here is that we be honest with ourselves. When examining others, we should first examine ourselves, lest we be considered **HYPOCRITES**.

II. EXAMINE YOUR FRUIT (43-45) – **READ:** The 4th illustration Jesus uses regards trees and fruit.

A. Types of Trees (43) – Jesus refers to trees as being either good, or bad. He explains that **the INTEGRITY of the tree will reproduce its own kind**.

- **Metaphorically speaking**, even the stature of a tree speaks volumes to us. Standing tall and upright, or crooked and disformed, not knowing which way is up. What kind of tree are you this morning...a good tree or a bad tree? You will be know by your...

B. Types of Fruit (44) – A tree bears fruit, **good or bad**, depending on what it is in itself. – We judge a tree by Kind and Quality of fruit it bears. (or If it even has fruit! – To be fruitless ...is also bad!)

- (Matt 7: 19), Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- The application here is simple, as a Christian **What kind of fruit are you producing in your life?**

C. Types of Man (45) – Jesus specifically associates this illustration with the **heart of a man**, and what comes out of it! – A man's heart is like a treasury, and **what we speak reveals what is within!**

1. A man who is **IMPURE** only **brings forth evil** things. – Jesus told the Pharisees, **Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? (Matt 12:34)**
2. On the other hand, a man who is **MORALLY PURE** and **SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY** will bring forth blessings for others **out of the good treasure of his heart**. – **(Prov. 15:28) The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.** – *What's in your wallet? (cf. Prov 17:9)*

CLOSING THOUGHT: *The type of tree that you are will be revealed in your fruit. And **your fruit will prove what kind of disciple you are!***

III. EXAMINE YOUR FOUNDATION (46-49) – **READ:** The Lord is telling the disciples that their ministry is to be a ministry of character. **What they are is more important than anything they will ever say or do.** The final result of their service will be determined by what they are in themselves. This is why...

A. Saying and Not Doing (46) – **This is so important!** Don't just call yourself a disciple, when you're really not; especially when you have no intention of following after Him.

1. The emphasis here is obedience to Jesus' instructions. It is not enough merely to hear His word and call Him Lord. A true disciple will whole-heartedly abide in every command that He has given us.
2. **The word LORD means Master**; it means He has complete authority over our lives, that we belong to Him, and that we are obligated to do whatever He says. **To call Him Lord and then to fail to obey Him is absurdly contradictory.**
3. **A mere professed acknowledgment of His lordship is not enough!** True love and faith involve obedience! ***We don't really love Him, and we don't really believe on Him if we don't do what He says.***

Ye call me the "Way" and walk me not,
Ye call me the "Life" and live me not,
Ye call me "Master" and obey me not,
If I condemn thee, blame me not.
Ye call me "Bread" and eat me not,
Ye call me "Truth" and believe me not,
Ye call me "Lord" and serve me not,
If I condemn thee, blame me not. — Geoffrey O'Hara

B. Hearing and Doing (47-48) – Jesus compares the hearer and doer to a person who is a wise builder. This person is one who not only thinks but is a hard worker who digs deep to find the "Firm Foundation."

- It is only this type of person that **cannot be shaken** when the storms of life come. Matthew tells us that this kind of a disciple will not fall!

C. Hearing and Doing Nothing (49) ... is compared to a **"Frail Foundation."** – To have a house build in the earth, or **"Sand"** refers to one who only offers Christ **"Lip Service,"** because he or she fails to do His will.

- **(Matt 7:21-23)** says, “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. - 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?’²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’”
- **What does your foundation look like this morning? Are built upon the Rock? **Jesus is talking to His disciples, not unbelievers!**** He asks us to **EXAMINE** our **FOUNDATION**... He asks us to **EXAMINE** our **FRUIT**. – If you get it right, you will correctly **EXAMINE OTHERS!** – This is the **EXAMINING PROCESS**.
- **(2 Cor 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.***

CLOSING THOUGHTS: If we are *rooted and built up in Him* (Col 2:7), then **our Fruits will be good**, and **our House will withstand every storm**. – Even though we may have **faults and failures**, our lives will be a steady witness which point to Jesus Christ and honor Him.