

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"MAGNANIMOUS PEOPLE" | LUKE 6: 37-42 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is the worst thing to bother your eyes or get stuck in your eyelashes?

"Don't Judge Your Friends" (Luke 6: 37-38)

Jesus says that a good amount (measure) will be running over and given to his people if they are generous towards others. **What does that reveal about Jesus? What does that mean for His followers?**

"Blind Leading the Blind" (Luke 6: 39-40)

Jesus says having someone blind lead others who are blind only leads to problems. People need others to help them learn how to live. **What are qualities to look for in a mentor? Why is it hard to reach out for mentorship/discipleship?**

"From Speck Inspector to Log Inspector" (Luke 6: 41-42)

Jesus describes overly critical and judgmental people as someone with a log in their eye trying to remove some sawdust in someone else's eye. **Why do so many people struggle with being critical in our culture? How can people "remove the log out of their own eye"?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian challenges us to be "big hearted" people, to show mercy and generosity to others instead of correcting and judging others like looking for sawdust in their eyes. **Have you been "big hearted" or a "sawdust seeker" lately? Pray and ask God to give you the ability to be genuine in your giving and forgiving.**

Magnanimous People

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Lar: Easter. Baptism. Employment Opportunity. Foster. C@R. Office. Ukrainian Prayer.
- B. Slide8-15 Interview Jeff/Ukraine: 1) **Unity** of believers working together. 2) **Neena** unsaved lady couldn't bel Christian help. 3) **Leela**, bookkeeper story. [Our staff is like family]
- C. Slide16 Show Invite to *MP Ukraine Update Dessert event* on 4/12.

II. Slide17a Intro: Magnanimous People

- A. We've been looking at **Jesus' sermon on the plain/level place** (17).
 1. We looked at having right attitudes in the beatitudes. **And** we learned that if we retaliate on our enemy, we'd be living on the low level of the world. **But** if we *love them, do good to them, bless them, & pray for them*, then we rise to a higher level and glorify the Lord.
 2. This passage today details **how we are to live** within the community of faith as people changed by the gospel.
 3. Slide17b Kent Hughes, we are called to be a **Magnanimous people**. (*magnus* means great, *animus* means spirit). Jesus is calling us to be a **great spirited people**.
- B. Now we deal w/**Ethics** w/in the community of faith. (last week *outside/your enemies*).
- C. *Last week* we started the 1st of 2 commands: *Love your enemy* (27-36). **Now** we'll be challenged with *don't judge your friends*.
 1. Then we'll look at 2 Illustrations: *The blind leading the blind and taking the log out of your own eye*.
 2. Don't miss it **Jesus** is *revolutionizing* how we go about our relationships.

III. Slide18a **DON'T JUDGE YOUR FRIENDS (37,38) 2nd Command READ**

A. **JUDGE NOT** (37A) *2 neg's, 2 pos's.*

B. For sure, *a scripture every non-believer knows*. But it doesn't expressly say not to judge anyone. As a matter of fact John 7:24 says, *Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.* (so we are to judge). Instead we are *warned against unloving, condemning criticism of another person.*

C. **Judge** - *to forming a critical opinion of someone by examination or scrutiny.*

1. To criticize, to discriminate, to show harshness, to be self righteous.
2. **This isn't rationalizing immoral behavior.** It doesn't say to *not judge*.
3. Jesus **doesn't** mean that we are *not to form opinions*, but **not** to form them rashly or unfairly.
4. **Not** showing harshness (usually from bitterness). John Stott explains, *It's a person who actively seeks out their failings. Puts the worst possible construction on their motives. Pours cold water on their plans. And is ungenerous towards their mistakes.*¹ Encourage them towards God.

D. **Slide18a CONDEMN NOT** (37b) **don't** declare/pronounce someone **guilty**.

E. This is telling someone, **or** some group (eg. Samaritans) that they are *beyond the mercy of God*. **Be merciful people** (see 36).

F. **Slide18a FORGIVE** (37c) (now the + side)

G. Forgive comes from an Old English word that literally means, *to abstain from giving*. **Giving a release, to set free.**

1. The underlying idea is of giving up resentment or a claim.
2. **Set people free & you'll be set free yourself.** Lay down your **right** to have this **offender owe you something**. **Lay it down. Release. Set them free.**
 - a) Did you know **God** is more ready to **forgive** than **we** are ready to **confess**.
3. **Slide19 Micah 7:18-20** **Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.** 19 **He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.**

¹ Adapted from John Stott.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. [where Corrie Ten Boom said, *then God put up a No Fishing sign*]

a) **Illust:** Mariana trench. off Guam. almost 7mi.deep. **trash** carried to the bottom. tectonic plates shift. **subduction occurs.** where **trash** is taken into the earths crust to be burnt up, *never to be seen again!*

H. **Slide20 GIVE (38)**

I. **Reciprocity** says, *I give as good as I get.* **Jesus** points out in vs.38, *no you get as good as you give.*

J. We should always *give* with **pure motives**, *hoping for nothing again* (vs.35). **Yet** God does promise, *He that gives unto the poor shall not lack.*

K. *The grass is not greener on that side of the fence. And the grass is not greener on this side of the fence. The grass is greener where you water it.*² [where do you want to water?]

L. **Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, & running over.**

1. The picture here is of **grain** poured into a container. **Pressed down & then shaken** so that every little corner is filled. And then more grain poured in **until it runs over.** LKGNT, pg.155.

2. If **grain** doesn't work for you, **how about ice-cream?**

We took the grand-boys to Thrifty Ice Cream (rite-aid). I like how they (*Ji*) *stack it up, press it down into the cone, until its running over the sides.*

M. **Put into your lap** (picture a robe) - fold the robe together, 1 side goes past center, tie on belt, let some slack **droop over the belt** (forms a pocket/*bosom*/תְּיִק).

1. Sometimes even used for ... **Carrying a nursing child, or a small child, or a lil lamb.** (Nm.11:12; 2 Sam.12:2,3; Is.40:11)

2. God says, *you're safe in my pocket, little one.* (Travel) *I have a specific pair of pants that have zippered side/front pockets, my safest spot* (Pssprt).

IV. **Slide21a TWO PARABLES/ILLUSTRATIONS (39-42)**

A. **BLIND LEADING THE BLIND (39,40) READ**

² Frank Fried, Bible Illustrator.

B. If we are **blind** to *God's way of living*, **and** attempt to **lead others**, both *we and they* will fall into a pit.

1. I was driving to a wedding in Temecula back hills. The map took us to a dead end. found a couple cars w/people dressed for a wedding, followed them, but they were lost also.
2. Notice it *doesn't say* not to notice anyones spec, **but** to check yourself 1st
3. **No splinter detection** *without log elimination!* Tony Merida

C. So how does a person *Live this kind of Life?*

1. **Follow** a person that knows how to Live! (discipleship)
2. Because **everyone** when he is been fully trained will be like his teacher (lit. reach his teachers level).
 - a) No matter your age, *we are all being disciplined by someone*. Who are you following? (lil Johnny down the street, **or**, your favorite news source)
3. **Parents** how will your children learn to live **Jesus'** way? **Calvary Kids Teachers**, how will your students learn to live **Jesus'** way?

D. **Slide21b** FROM SPECK INSPECTOR TO LOG INSPECTOR (41,42) **READ**

E. **Speck Inspector** - This is an **example of the humor** of **Jesus**. He used humor (he made you right?) irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, not only for shock value, **but to make His points *memorable***.

1. He must have been **smiling** when he taught this *hyperbole*.

F. We have no right to criticize, **unless** we ourselves are *free of faults*.

1. **Thus**, we have no right to **criticize at all**.
2. **Are you** always trying to **reform** and **change others**? **Stop right now!**
 - a) **Put a timer on it**: how much time do you spend complaining about others **or** inspecting and detecting their sins, **versus** *confessing your own sin*?
3. **Slide21c** (Barclay) *There is so much **bad** in the best of us, **and** so much **good** in the worst of us, **that it ill becomes any of us, to find fault with the rest of us.***

4. **Faults** are like the **headlights** of a car ... those of **others** seem more **glaring than your own**.

5. It's like a **skunk** walking up to anyone & telling them, **you smell horrible!**

G. **Don't be a Sawdust Seeker Blind to our own Beams**. This is Jesus' **No Tolerance** policy.

H. **Hypocrite** – a contrast to the *intentional politeness* of, **brother**. It also describes a *person who maintains a false appearance of religion* (actor acting).

1. Is it right for 1 w/a habitual eating habit **judge** 1 w/a habitual smoking habit? Is it right for the coffee-oholic to **judge** the sugar-oholic? Can the person w/hatred **judge** the person who is a murderer? Can the person who struggles w/lust **judge** the adulterer? Can the 1 who slowly rolls thru the stop sign **judge** the reckless 95mph driver?

I. **See**, Christianity is a way of life that is learned from **Christian models**.

1. We have no right to **criticize** or **instruct** another about **how to live**, **until** we are sure that **our lives are in harmony w/Christ**.

J. **Quick Summation**: be Big Hearted people (**not** judging or condemning others). Instead be forgiving & giving. **Be quick to show mercy**. *If anyone is caught in sin you who are spiritual should restore him/her in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.* Gal.6:1

K. **Prayer**: w/Lord, help us to be a **Magnanimous people**. a **great spirited** people.

L. **Good bye/prayer to Mike/Lori** (heading back to their home in Asia).

1. You hear us say we use 1st names & **don't** mention their country because of security reasons.
2. About **60 countries** in our world are considered **limited access, restricted access**, or **creative access** when it comes to **sharing the Gospel**.
 - a) We respect these restrictions and we ask you to do the same in contacting them on the field (what platform they use & what you can say or not say).
3. The **Lord of all the earth** (Josh.3:13) continues to **reveal means** by which **the good news of a risen Lord Jesus** can still reach **the ends of the earth**.

4. **Prayer:** Visa's. Reconnect to friends.

M.Keywords: disciple. forgiveness, glory, God, gospel, Jesus, judgment, love, mercy, righteousness.