

Remnant Life Church
November 6, 2016
Putting Belief into Practice:
What's That in Your Eye?
Luke 6:37-42

READ – Luke 6:37-42

- We are looking at the 2nd of the 4 pillars that comprise Jesus' Sermon on the Plain as recorded by Luke in the 6th chapter
- The first pillar was love your enemies
 - Not just loving those who are nice to you
 - Loving people who are unkind, unjust, hurtful, dishonest with you
- In this passage Jesus is basically asking, "How do you want to be treated?"
 - Do you want to be judged unfairly? Of course not, then don't judge others
 - Do you want to be condemned? The don't condemn others
 - Do you want to be forgiven? Then forgive others
- Jesus then uses a common example to emphasize his point
 - In the marketplace
 - Buying goods and materials – liquid and solid measure
 - When someone was buying grain
 - Merchant would fill the container then press it down and shake it (fill it completely)
 - If he was generous the woman may even have more of it in the fold of her garment from the overflow
 - Jesus teaches that treating people in the right way results in an overflow of blessing
- Focus on the first part of the 37th verse "*Do not judge, and you will not be judged...*"
- This is a verse that is probably reference by non-Christians more than any other
 - Any time someone is being called on their behavior or words or actions they most often say, "Who are you to judge me? Didn't Jesus say not to judge?"
 - The problem is obviously they don't realize the full meaning of what was being taught
- There are times when we should never judge and then there are times when righteousness must be defended
- The Christian's default position should always be forgiveness and mercy not judgement and condemnation
- When should a Christian NOT judge?
 1. **A Christian should never judge someone's moral failure**
 - a. READ Rom 2:1-5
 - b. When we judge others for their failings we are showing contempt for God by saying 'you are taking long to bring judgement on this person let me give you a hand'

- c. We are turning it in on ourselves because **Luke 6:38** says that whatever measure you use it will be measured back to you.
- d. God's way is not condemnation but leading people to repentance through his love, kindness, and patience.
- e. Why would we want to do less?

2. We should never judge someone over disputable matters

- a. **READ – Rom 14:1-10**
- b. The people of Paul's time disagreed on a great number of things as it related to living daily life and what was right or wrong
 - i. What foods should or should not be eaten; the holiness of the Sabbath day
- c. What about today?
 - i. It is okay to: watch certain TV shows or movies? Gamble? Drive over the speed limit? Drink alcohol in moderation? Agree on every theological point? What about the place of women in ministry? How about the version of the Bible you use?
 - ii. All of these and many more are debated in the church today with no clear, set answers for everyone
 - iii. Paul says don't get hung up on these things
 - iv. Why? Because we all stand before God one day and have to answer for our own actions not the actions of others

3. We should never judge someone's unknown motives

- a. **READ – I Cor 4:5** - *Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*
- b. Very simply – we do not know the reason people do the things they do (motives) so we should not judge what we see
- c. (Ill:) Check out girl who wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper complaining that people were buying what she calls "luxury" items and using food stamps to pay.
 - i. She cited watching a woman buy a large cake and another a big bag of shrimp both using food stamps
 - ii. She called them lazy and using the system to treat themselves when others like her worked hard and didn't eat those things
 - iii. The paper ran the letter and the following week devoted their entire letters-to-the-editor section to the responses they received
 - iv. Both woman who she had referred to wrote in
 - v. The first said, "I didn't buy a cake, but I did buy a big bag of small shrimp with food stamps. So what? My husband had been working at a plant for fifteen years when it recently shut down. The shrimp casserole I made was for our wedding anniversary dinner and lasted us three days. Perhaps the supermarket attendant who criticized me would have a different view of life after walking a mile in my shoes."

- vi. The second lady also wrote in - "I'm the woman who bought the \$17 cake and paid for it with food stamps. I thought the check-out woman in the store would burn a hole through me with her eyes. What she doesn't know is the cake was for my little girl's birthday. It will be her last. She has bone cancer and will probably be gone in six to eight months."
- d. When you stand before the Father one day how many of these will you be called to answer for?

4. Lastly, a Christian should never judge an unbeliever

- a. READ – **I Cor 5:12-13a** *What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside.*
John 3:17 – *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*
- b. This clearly presents our role and responsibility to the unbeliever – love, patience, kindness – all to point them to Jesus
- All of these passages tell us the same thing – God is the only judge because only He knows the heart and the motive for why people do what they do
- Do not judge moral failures; disputable matters; unknown motives; an unbeliever

- When should a Christian judge?
- Before we look at that very short list we must understand one thing first:

1. We are to have the mind of Christ when considering judging anything

- a. READ – **I Cor 2:15-16** - *The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*
- b. In other words every person filled with the Spirit (Christian) is always desiring the mind of Christ to know right and wrong.
- c. Therefore it is the leading of the Spirit that tells us right from wrong because the Holy Spirit guides our hearts and our minds

2. A Christian should judge themselves

- a. READ – **I Cor 11:31-32** - *But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.*
- b. This takes us back to **Luke 6** when Jesus says see to the log in your own eye before you start hunting for the sawdust in someone else's
- c. Our most intense scrutiny of a life must be our own

3. A Christian should judge unrepentant sin in someone who claims to be a Christian

- a. READ – **I Cor 5:1-5**
- b. Paul uses the example of a man having sexual relations with his step-mother
 - i. Older men married much younger women in that day

- c.* The Bible condemns this activity (**Lev 18:8**) there is no need to discuss or debate – the Bible calls it sin (10 Commandments)
 - d.* In those instances we have a responsibility to firmly BUT loving bring correction (**Matt 18:14-16** – just between the two of you)
 - e.* It is always done in love because the goal is not to crush or for you to bring punishment but to restore to righteousness
- This is the point of all these things
 - Restoring people back to the Father
 - Bringing someone to know Jesus
 - Avoiding falling into the sin of falsely accusing our brothers and sinners