

Biblical Discernment (Sermon on the Mount Series) Luke 6:39-45

Introduction: Who do you listen to for spiritual advise? What authors do you allow into your mind? What human do you turn to for counsel?

Recap from

- Luke 6:20-23—4 Blessings
- Luke 6:24-26—4 Warnings
- Luke 6:27-38—Love your enemies
- Luke 6:39-45—The Danger of avoiding Biblical Discernment
- “Can a blind man lead the blind man”—question designed to reveal the hopelessness and detriment of following false teachers. When the FT falls into the ditch, he will hold onto the disciple tightly and he will be pulled in to his demise too.
- “disciple is not above his teacher”—There is a submissive aspect to this statement. The Teacher imparts knowledge and skills. If the teacher refused to impart knowledge and instruction, the disciple would remain in ignorance. Because of the superiority of the teacher, the disciple can never claim originality of ideas, knowledge, and skills.
 - This statement eludes to (v.46). For a person to be discipled follows the teaching so he must obey the Teacher so thereby he calls the teacher Lord. The pharisees and fake disciples heard what Jesus said, but refused to obey. Their refusal to submit and obey Jesus authenticates their false profession of an authentic disciple.
- “perfectly trained”—signifying the moment the disciple is equipped by the teacher to perform a task. Jesus equipped His disciples to be like Him. He was going to the cross to die for the sins of the world (God’s glory/other’s good). Jesus gave Apostles, Prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers ‘in order to make God’s people fully qualified for work in (his) service’ or ‘... for (this) work of service’ Eph 4:12.
- “speck in your brothers eye”—this would be like a particle of sawdust to a wood-worker or a particle of chaff to someone who winnowed grain.
- “log that is in your eye”—a long thick piece of wood used for construction. This is a purposeful exaggeration (i.e. Figure of speech “I could eat an elephant”)meant to explain the inconsistency of False Teachers (i.e. Pharisees and Scribes). They

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constantly divert the focus on menial details while ignoring the huge problems in their own lives. James 3 explains that many should be sober before committing to teach because teachers will be held to a great accountability for what they teach. Your life must reinforce your message or you get disqualified (1 Corinthians 9-27-31).

- “notice”—to be fully aware of something through thoughtful viewing/ realize fully with the eyes and mind. to consider carefully. to give careful consideration. The False Teachers disregarded their huge spiritual miscalculations. The Pharisees and Scribes focused on things like Jesus’ disciples picking grain on a Sabbath or not washing their hands while they refused to accept Christ and His claims to be the Son of God!!!!
- “How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye’ when you do not see the log that is in your own eye?”— ignorant diversion or deviant distraction? They focused on the minor issues while either blatantly or ignorantly ignoring their own dangerous spiritual condition. Jesus makes it clear that False Teachers are unable to address matters in His disciples until they first deal with the major problem of unbelief or correction of false doctrine.
 - This happens today when so called “spiritual leaders” are eventually caught and labeled for what they are (fraud).
- “Hypocrite”—a title Jesus gives to those who profess certain opinions or beliefs they don’t hold in order to conceal or divert attention away from their true feelings or motives. Play-actors or pretenders might help us understand the title of hypocrite. Someone that plays the part or pretends to be something they are not.
 - Bill Cosby is a good example of a hypocrite. He acted on a clean sitcom while drugging and raping woman.
 - Another example would be Al Gore who claims to be environmental activist while flying his private jet and burning hundreds of gallons of fuel to tell everyone to stop using cars.
 - A movie named “Spotlight” detailed the scandal of the Catholic Church in 2015. Many priests who appeared religious were actively abusing boys all around the world. They proved to be hypocrites and ruined many people’s lives.
 - A Christian that claims to follow Christ but looks down at people of different ethnicities or skin color.
 - The best example of a hypocrite would be Judas. He claimed to know Christ and betrayed him proving to be fake he hung himself.

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- “first” (v.42)—Jesus instruction is one of sequence and priority. The very first thing the person in spiritual danger is to do is deal with themselves first. They might need to repent from their sin and trust Christ for the very first time. Change their minds about who Jesus is and what He’s done for them on the cross. This is a matter of urgency. When Jesus reveals to you your sin, you must take care of it immediately.
 - Listen to the words of Isaiah. “Come now, let us reason together says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18).
 - Isaiah also says later, “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7).
 - If you sense the God is dealing with your spiritual life then submit to Him by calling out to him for forgiveness and direction. While you are still alive, the invitation is open! Respond in obedience to God’s working in your life.
- “take the log out of your own eye”—the word take is “ekballo” which is a forceful word which means to “cast out”. This is typically done forcefully.
 - This word is also used in Acts 27:18 where in the middle of a violent storm, they began “to cast out” the cargo from the ship in order to lighten the load.
 - Also this word is used in Mark 1:12 of the action of the Holy Spirit when he “drove out” Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for 40 days and 40 nights.
 - The idea is here to immediately “cast out sin in your life as God reveals it to you.
- “you will see clearly”—after self-examination, the person first deals forcefully with their own problem, then they can help other’s that have problems.
- “to take out the speck in your brother’s eye”—After personal examination and restoration is complete, God can then use you in other people’s lives. This is further explained in Galatians 6:1-4. God wants you at a place of usability so He can use you as an instrument in other people’s lives. To the same degree and urgency you remove the log in your eye, after removed you treat other’s ‘speck’ in like fashion.
 - Jesus isn’t giving a pass on people with small issues, He’s instructing people to deal with sin in their own lives first and then minister to others.

Jesus the man talks about 2 types of trees, 2 types of fruit they produce, and what kind of person they each represent.

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- “good tree”—one of the trees Jesus is referring to is a useful tree that is functioning and healthy. This kind of tree is unable to produce a harvest of unwholesome fruit.
- “bad tree”—the other tree Jesus refers to is a damaged, decayed, and useless tree. This tree is unhealthy, damaged, and worthless tree that only produces unwholesome fruit at harvest time.
- “every tree is known by it’s fruit”—men should be able to do a brief evaluation of the tree and determine it’s **condition** and **variety**.
- “men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush”—those that pick fruit can easily target which tree to harvest. The harvesters do not target worthless trees or trees not bearing the fruit they desire. The disciple at this point should be thinking about where they are gathering their teaching.
- “a good man”—an authentic follower of Jesus and His teachings.
- “an evil man”—a false teacher or anyone that does not follow Jesus and submit to His teachings. This can be anyone! “...will arise from among you speaking twisted things”
- “produces good”—a regenerated heart will yield good
- “produces evil”—an unregenerate heart will yield evil
- “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”—what spills over the lips is what is contained in the heart of a person. Man must look to what a person speaks to determine the health and variety of the heart. If the speech is identical to Jesus then the heart is good. If the speech is not identical to Jesus then the person is “blind”, “hypocritical”, “bad” and “evil” and revealing they are not an authentic disciple of Jesus.

The tongue reveals what's in a person's heart. Important to note here that God always goes after a person's heart. We see that in how Jesus dealt with people. He was a friend of sinners, tax collectors, and prostitutes. The religious (but not righteous) always used his interactions with them in derogatory and self-promoting ways. Jesus stayed the course and continued to ‘bear witness to the truth’

False Teachers—follow the teaching of Satan (Matthew 4) Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride in life. Prosperity gospel (health wealth, success, favor, possessions, fame, pursuits that can only apply to this present life.) Satan speaks and the world follows because they listen to their master's voice.

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From Matthew's account, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. (Matthew 7:15-16)

Jesus made it abundantly clear in (Luke 6:20-26) that true blessedness in God's eyes predominately looks like judgement from God in the world's eyes.

Context of original audience:

Jesus is talking to many people from surrounding regions. These people have been under the spiritual direction of leaders that thought they knew God's Word. They could be likened to the recipients of Ezekiel 34:1-10. Jesus came as prophesied in Ezekiel 34:11-31 who would deliver the sheep out of the hands of blind and self-serving shepherds (Scribes and Pharisees). As Jesus began to relinquish control from the Scribes and Pharisees at the conclusion of his message (Matthew 7:28-29), they began to hate him (Luke 9:22).

Jesus drew a line in the sand and called out the religious leaders of the day for their unbelief and lack of knowledge about God's Word. He even rebuked Nicodemus for not knowing God's Word on the basics of salvation and yet being a "teacher of Israel" (John 3:10). Jesus came to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) that were scattered like "sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

Contemporary Application:

There is a plethora of "spiritual" leaders today that all claim to have authority from God. We are not to blindly follow someone just because they claim to speak for God, speak authoritatively, or look good on the outside appearance. Jesus gives us a grid by which to evaluate any teacher.

Today, we must be absolutely certain that the voices we listen to for spiritual guidance
1) Have a right view of Jesus Christ (person and work) 2) Their lifestyle is godly and, 3) They repeat (Teach/preach) the written Word of God.

1. What do they say about Jesus?
2. Do they live the Gospel?
3. Do they repeat God's written Word?

False teaching will destroy your life. I can't say it enough to stay in the Word.

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Nothing can replace you as a believer picking up God's Word and studying it on a daily basis. If you listen to a teacher, make sure they have a high view of Scripture, they live like Jesus, and they exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. You have the indwelling Holy Spirit and so really you just need to get in it and study it!