

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 3

JUDGING

PART 1

Humility first, help second

READ LUKE 6:39-42

INTRODUCTION

It is a common thing to hear Christians and non-Christians alike quote this passage when they feel someone is judging them. "Judge not lest you be judged" is commonly on the tongue of those who want to be left alone in regards to how they are living their lives. While they may make a point that we will be judged in the same way that we judge (vs. 37-38), it is an incomplete thought as we read the rest of these verses. There is certainly an instruction to not judge others. That instruction comes with details on how we are supposed to judge each other.

One thing that is important is that we do not judge one another's salvation. If a person claims to be a child of God, that is how Christians are to treat them. As Jesus explains, we are first to humbly deal with the log that is in our own eye that is causing us and others to stumble. That is something that requires humility and truth. We have to be willing to be honest in our examination of our hearts to be open to what we are doing wrong and how we can change that in our own lives. It does us no good to expect others to change and be more Christlike if we are not willing to change ourselves to be more like Him first.

After we remove the log in our own eye, that is when we are able to go to our brother or sister and try to assist them in being more like Christ. In essence, we judge the fruit of our brothers and sisters and not their salvation. But again, we only judge that fruit once we have humbly removed the plank from our own eye. Otherwise, it is hypocrisy and can be very damaging to personal relationships as well as damaging for the brother or sister. Prayer and humility are the only way that we get to a place where we can be comfortable knowing that God is working in us to purify our hearts.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the world is so eager to quote this particular Scripture passage to us? Do you think they have valid reasons? Why or why not?
2. Read verses 37-38. What is Jesus expressing here? What do you think He is trying to push us towards as a family?
3. What does it mean to be humble? How do we practice humility when dealing with others? Can you call out sin in a humble way? How?
4. What does it mean to remove the log from your own eye? What are some of the things that we ignore in ourselves and yet call out in others?
5. What is your first reaction to someone who is calling out sin in your life? Do you think the way you react is the right way? Why or why not?

WRAP UP

Judgment is ultimately something that God will take care of. We are not really to worry about judging others because the Holy Spirit is the One that convicts of sin. We are to encourage one another to live lives that are glorifying to Christ and that we can confidently say honor Him. That is our purpose and we are to enjoy living side by side with each other and spurring each other on to more holy living