



How You See Jesus Is How You Do. Luke 6:37-42

In Luke 6, Jesus is teaching what is known as 'the sermon on the plain'. People came from all over to hear Jesus teach. Some were his apostles, some were disciples, and others came out of interest or to criticize. In verse 27, Jesus said "To you who are listening...". Today, Jesus is addressing people who want to listen to him. Further on, in

verse 46, Jesus says, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" There are people who call him Lord with their mouth, but their actions say otherwise. In this room there are disciples who listen to Jesus. They love and worship him. But also in this room today, there are people who see Jesus but don't do anything about it. You're here today because you feel better after church and hope that if you come enough and live a good enough life then you'll make it to heaven. Wrong. The Bible warns against what Jesus calls hypocrites. That is not a place we want to be. If you are spiritually blind, Jesus is offering you sight this morning. In fact, as we look at this passage, I want all of us to see and savour Jesus. I want all of us to hear Jesus' words and know him, to respond with joy-filled obedience, to walk daily in dependence on him. I want all of us to walk by faith with our eyes fixed upon him.

Immediate to Eternal How we see is how we do and that takes us right to the beginning of our passage today., "Do not judge and you will not be judged, Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (v 37) If you're not a follower of Jesus, right now is the best you are going to get. All you have is the present because the future is eternal torment in hell. This is why, if you don't know Jesus you are all about living for the present because it is all you have. But those who know Jesus, and trust in his atoning work on the cross know that they are united with him in the present and will have eternity with him. So if you don't know Jesus, right now is the best there is. But if you do know Jesus, right now is the hardest it'll ever be. If we trust that through faith in Christ we stand uncondemned, that the judgement of God was born by Jesus and we are judged based on his righteousness, if we believe those things, then we're not going to spend our lives judging, condemning and in unforgiveness. The immediate will be transformed by the eternal. How we see Jesus is how we do. The warning is there, "For the measure you use, it will be measured to you." The way we judge, the way we condemn, shows the way we want God to judge or condemn us. Look at verse 38. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." It is said that when we give financially, the Lord will give us back in this life overflowing more than we have given. That is not right. That is all-we-have-is-right-now-short-sightedness. Jesus is teaching that when we give, he will give us back vastly more. That is what it says. But it doesn't say whether it'll be in this life or in eternity. We might see the return in this life but we WILL see the return in eternity. There will be differences in the fullness of delight that each of us will enjoy in heaven. This is the whole concept of heavenly rewards and storing up treasures in heaven. Yes in heaven everyone will be fully joyfully content in the Lord but everyone's experiences in heaven will be different based upon their life on earth. In Matthew 6:19 Jesus says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Or in 1 Corinthians 3 "If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 'their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved, even though only as one escaping through the flames." I've heard it described like different sized cups but all are completely full. Yet, despite this, no one will feel lesser, everyone is completely happy in God. Jesus is the treasure for all.

There is a distinction between salvation and rewards. Salvation is by grace alone based on nothing we have done. Heavenly rewards are based on how we live after receiving that saving grace. If this life is all you are focused on then of course you're not going to give. But if you are walking by faith and looking to Christ and your joy is in him, you'll delight in giving to further his Kingdom. Remember the call to give sacrificially and the promise of eternal rewards. Also, having a holiday and a comfortable home where we can show hospitality are

gifts to enjoy. So I am not saying renovations are wrong but as you cost it up, take time to pray through your money and consider how it will impact your giving. I don't want your money. I want you to be satisfied in Jesus. This passage is giving generously of ourselves, our time, talents and our treasure. It is the spiritual sight shift that moves us from the immediate to the eternal when Christ lifts us from ourselves and reorientates us to his agenda.

Teachers To Student Jesus then teaches how our seeing him will change our seeing of those who teach us and our seeing of those whom we teach., "He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher." (v 39-40) The internet has changed the way we learn forever from sage on the stage (lecturer) to guide by the side (internet). Now we have access to so much information from Youtubers, Instagrammers, influencers unvetted writers, online gurus and AI. Do our myriad of teachers know their way to heaven? If they don't we'll be following them into the pit. We must assess all teaching against the indisputable authoritative word of God chucking out everything that does not stand up to God's standard. Beware of teachers like Joyce Meyer with her extra-biblical and prosperity influence or The Archbishop of Wales, Cherry Vann with her unorthodox and liberal ethics. Be discerning. Look at their fruit and how they conduct themselves. What is their agenda? Is it about Christ and His church? Some of you might rightly be thinking 'Jesus has just said not to judge!' Anyone got their hand on the hypocrisy bell? The context of this teaching does not mean suspend discernment. Will their teaching lead to the pit? We must also take this warning on ourselves in the role of a teacher, however small that may be. It could be over our children and other people's children or over people in our team at work or at church; maybe over our siblings or peers at school. Jesus says "everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher" Does that not give you cause to fall on your face and ask God for mercy? How you see Jesus is how you do. Who are we following and who is following us? Do not be led away from Jesus and do not lead others away from Jesus.

Brother To Brother Jesus then gives us this well-known image to show how our seeing of him ought to affect our seeing of one another. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (v 41) It is an amusing image, but it is also a stark challenge. Jesus does not hold back, "You hypocrite!" When we're living like this, we are actually living in contradiction to the gospel. When we are floating about like a big iceberg, pointing out all the faults that we see in our brothers and sisters around us, we are behaving in an anti-gospel way. We are putting ourselves in the place of Christ and assuming a place of perfection. We do not do it in love. When we zero in on a fault, or a misspeak, or something that someone has neglected to do, and we approach it without grace, then we are acting in a way that contradicts the gospel we profess. Just let that sink in. If we see ourselves in light of Christ then we won't be blind to our planks. We need to be self-aware of our own fallenness, the ways that we are in need of grace and mercy and so too extend that grace and mercy to our brother and sister. If we reprove and challenge the sins of others (WHICH WE OUGHT TO DO) it must be from a humble place of awareness of our need of grace. This comes only from knowing, hearing and seeing Jesus. Seeing our Lord and Saviour who was nailed to a cross for OUR sin; "pierced for our transgressions; crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace." When we see Jesus, our Saviour giving his life as an atonement for our sin, the only way we can approach our brother is from a place of humble love. Know Christ and then "you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." There can be no pride at the foot of the cross. Stay there, keep yourself there, and from there you can love your brother and sister well. Rather than contradicting the gospel, from there you can proclaim the gospel. By loving one another in this way, the gospel is proclaimed. When we lovingly and gently come alongside our brother and sisters and help steer them towards Jesus so that our forgiveness from Christ and our unity with Christ will become visible. The watching world will be able to see Jesus and give glory to God in heaven. How you see Jesus is how you do. See Jesus our Saviour by spending time in the Bible and getting to know your God. Discuss him in your homegroups, chat about him whenever you hang out. The greater the clarity that we see him, the greater the clarity he will be seen in us.