

The Gospel of Luke Judicious Disciples

Luke 6:37-42

Suggested Memory Verse: John 15:5

1. **Be Careful to Not Respond Vindictively** (vs.37-38; cf. Matt 7:1-2)
Contrary to popular opinion, the Bible does not forbid Christians from making judgments (cf. Luke 6:43-45; Gal 1:6-9). The Bible does teach that Christians are to be careful about the manner in which we make judgments (John 7:24).
 - A. **What is Forbidden: To Judge and to Condemn** (v.37a)
Jesus is not forbidding a disciple from pointing out sin or its consequences to sinners, but rather the attitude which places him in the position of an uncompassionate judge, jury, and executioner (cf. Matt 23:23; Luke 18:11-12).
 - B. **What is Encouraged: To Pardon and to Forgive** (vs.37b-38)
The disciple is not to pretend that the guilty party is innocent, but rather he is, intentionally, to not hold their sinful action against them (cf. Acts 7:60).
2. **Be Careful to Not Rule Prematurely** (vs.39-40; cf. Matt 15:14)
If a Christian desires to teach others the gospel, it is a very good thing (cf. Matt 28:19-20; 1 Tim 3:1). However, it is important that this desire is tempered with wisdom and patience (cf. Ja 3:1; 1 Tim 3:6)
 - A. **What is Forbidden: Teaching Without Knowledge** (v.39)
Attempting to teach someone the ways of Christ prior to being fully trained leads to disaster for both teacher and pupil.
 - B. **What is Encouraged: Patience to be Fully Instructed** (v.40)
Patience during the time of learning will result in the fully trained student becoming like the teacher; able now to teach and lead others.
3. **Be Careful to Not Reprimand Obtusely** (vs.41-42; cf. Matt 7:3-5)
Ignorance, whether intentional or unintentional, to one's own glaring sins is unacceptable for the disciple who is criticizing the sins of others.
 - A. **What is Forbidden: Seeing Someone Else's Sin First** (vs.41-42a)
Pointing out someone else's sin which is relatively insignificant and invisible when compared to that disciple's own obvious sin is an example of either great ignorance or of great hypocrisy; neither of these is acceptable.
 - B. **What is Encouraged: Dealing with Your Own Sin First** (v.42b)
A disciple is to not only recognize his own obvious sins prior to pointing out others' sins, but he is to have sufficiently mortified them as well.