



**WEST
SIDE
CHURCH**

Week 10

Sermon Series: Lessons from the Sinless Savior

Sermon Title: The Problem with Human Judges

Sermon Text: Luke 6:37-42

Group Week of: September 24, 2023

Sermon Date: October 10, 2023

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 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.”

³⁹ He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) that you see Jesus teaching in this passage?
- 2) In the commands to not judge or condemn, what is Jesus communicating to His disciples?
- 3) Is Jesus saying that the student who still has much to learn is like a blind man?

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Judging & Responsibility – Rom 2:12-16
Day 2	God’s Repayment – Matt 19:16-30
Day 3	Giving/Receiving Grace – Matt 18:21-35
Day 4	The Blind – Matthew 15:1-20
Day 5	Fully Trained – 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Have you ever been in a relationship (work, home, friends, church, etc.) where the relationship devolved into constant policing of someone's behavior? How did that situation come about, and what was the result of it?

- 2) What happens to a church body when policing one another's behavior becomes the normal way we interact? Does this tend to help the Body grow stronger or weaker and why?

- 3) In Jesus' day, the Pharisees had created an atmosphere of policing, criticizing, judging, and condemning people for the slightest infraction of their customs around the law. In Matthew 23:4, regarding the Pharisees, He says, *"They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them."*
 - i. Who has put a heavy load on your shoulders?

 - ii. On whose shoulders have you placed a heavy load?

- 4) When Jesus says, "Can the blind lead the blind?", He is making the point that people with a critical spirit are blind, and when they go around criticizing and judging everyone to make them change, they become "the blind leading the blind." What is the antidote to being one of these blind judges in this passage?

- 5) Jesus exhorts us to be generous with grace and forgiveness and to be fully trained in the ways of Christ before we go around trying to correct the people around us.
 - i. Why is generosity with grace and forgiveness needed before we start judging?

 - ii. Why do we need to be fully trained in the ways of Christ before we start judging?

- 6) God promises to judge us with the measure we use to judge others. This reminds us that those who generously pour out true mercy and grace are those who have truly received the mercy and grace of God in Christ Jesus. The key to being able to live out Jesus' commands here is to be a people who are always seeking to know the love, grace, and mercy of God more deeply. How can you practically grow in your knowledge of God's love, grace, and mercy this week?