



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Confusing Story

Luke 6:37-38

Message #21 of 50 – S798

Sermon given on July 1, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

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A Confusing Story

Luke 6:37-38

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 6**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- There are a lot of people who don't like Christians
- Because they see Christians as judgmental, condemning, unforgiving, and believe they only care about people in their clique
- And sadly, a lot of Christians are giving them good reasons to believe those things
- As people watched Jesus, they were confused about the way He lived and the things He did and said
- And if you live the radical life of a true disciple, you will confuse the world around you too
- Let's pray and then look at these confusing traits
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Confusing Story**
- The radical life of a true disciple of Jesus Christ is confusing to the world
- But it shouldn't be confusing to us as we are trying to live it
- Let's read our text for today and then will look more closely at it
- **Luke 6:37-38**
- That's it – two verses for today – but they are packed – they are deep
- Four words are key to this text; judge, condemn, forgive, and give
- Two are given in the negative; judge not and condemn not
- Two are in the positive; forgive and give
- All four are verbs – action words – Present tense – active voice
- Actions that are continuous
- Before we look at these four confusing traits – let's establish some context

- God is calling His children to live unnatural lives – supernatural Holy Spirit-filled lives
- Turn to **Galatians 6**
- Comes with a promise **Luke 6:35**
Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.
- There is another promise at the end of our text today
- **Luke 6:38b**
- This is the basis for understanding the context of these four confusing words – Explained to us also by Paul
- **Galatians 6:7-10**
- As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to do good
- And if we do good, we can expect good to come to our life
- Turn back to **Luke 6**
- The concept of sowing and reaping is the context for understanding these four confusing words
- Let's look at them
- The first two are similar, so we will look at them together – **Judge Not – Condemn Not**
- **Luke 6:37a-b**
- To judge is to form a critical opinion of something or someone
- To condemn is to pronounce guilt and a punitive sentence
- Many of you know Monte or you have seen him around the church
- When he first showed up the church he had long hair and a scraggly beard, he is all tatted up and his favorite color was camouflage
- He was a banquet for the judgmental person
- I could have formed numerous critical opinions about each of those traits – then determined that he wasn't like us, so we should just ignore him – maybe he will go away
- I am so thankful that as a church we didn't do that – today, he heads up our Ushers Ministry, helps with worship, has a heart to minister to young people, and I count him as a friend
- The root of judgmentalism is pride and a false sense of superiority

- The Greek word we translate as ‘judge’ is the root of our English word critic, criticize, critical – the judgmental person has a critical spirit
- That’s what judgment does to us – once we have formed a judgment, we will look for a way to punish them
- If a husband forgets to do something he said he would – wife makes a judgment that he doesn’t care about it, or worse, he doesn’t care about her – she is judging his motives
- She then thinks of ways to punish him – silent treatment
- Jesus says we shouldn’t do things like that
- And says there is a consequence if we don’t listen – we shall be judged and condemned
- This is where we get into the sowing and reaping aspect of this
- If you are judging and condemning others, God will allow judgment and condemnation from others to come into your life
- I want to touch on something before we move on
- Jesus says, ‘Judge not’ – referring to judging someone’s motives
- But elsewhere in the Bible we are told to judge sin
- As Christians we are called to be a moral voice to this world
- There is right/wrong, good/evil, truth/lies
- As true disciples of Christ we have to stand on truth and be prepared to make moral judgments about sin – not about people’s motives
- Couple having sex – not married = sin – fornication how should I respond to them
- I accept them as creations of God – His glory, the blessing to others, and I will try to lead to toward deeper faith, including repentance for their sin
- The next confusing trait – **Forgive**
- **Luke 6:37c**
- Forgiveness is one of the foundations concepts of Christianity
- We are a forgiven people **Ephesians 1:7**
In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace...
- Because Jesus died for our sins, we are forgiven of our sins when we come to Him
- Forgiven people ought to themselves be forgiving people

- There is a scary implication to this phrase – forgive, and you will be forgiven = don't forgive and you won't be forgiven
- Not saying that your salvation is dependent upon forgiving others
- Two aspects of forgiveness; judicial and parental forgiveness
- Judicial forgiveness happens when we receive Christ as our Savior and repent of our sins
- The Bible teaches that there is an eternal consequence for sin – death – eternal separation from God in hell
- Jesus took our sins to the cross – Peter speaking of Christ **1 Peter 2:23-24**

...when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

- By receiving Christ, we obtain a once-for-all forgiveness from the penalty of our sins – heaven-bound
- But then, we continue to sin – need other type of forgiveness – parental
- As Christians, through Christ, we become children of God – He is our Father in heaven
- When Christians sin, it doesn't affect their eternal standing as children, but it does hinder their temporal relationship with God
- Sin gets in the way of God's grace flowing into our lives
- To deal with our sin, God calls us to repent of our daily sin **1 John 1:9** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- That is a conditional promise – to have your sins forgiven, you must confess them to God – restores our intimate relationship with God
- Here in our verse is one of the conditions for God's forgiveness – you forgiving others
- In our verse – 'forgive' – verb present active = continuous action
- It is a command – who should we forgive – anyone who has sinned against you, might sin against you, you think sinned against you, or who your friend says sinned against you – everyone
- Forgiveness doesn't not release them from the divine consequences of their sin against you
- It releases you from the burden of their sin – it sets you free

- And it proves you trust God to deal with judgment and condemnation
- If we forgive, we will be forgiven – unforgiveness is sin
- You cannot restore your relationship with God if you are unwilling to forgive others
- True disciples choose to forgive everyone, every time, and for everything
- Unforgiveness also leads to judgmentalism and condemnation
- Fourth confusing trait of a true disciple – **Giving**

- **Luke 6:38a**

- We talked about giving last week, so not going to labor this point
- But notice the reward for having a generous spirit
- You can't out give God – He is a debtor to no man **Proverbs 19:17**
He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

- When you are generous with what God gives, you are making a loan to God – He will repay with great interest
- Brothers and sisters, the world is expecting you to judge them and condemn them, they do not expect, or in some cases desire your forgiveness
- They may want you to be generous, but they won't understand why you do it
- Our lives should confuse those who are watching us try to be true disciples
- And maybe that confusion will lead them to wonder why you are the way you are – and maybe they might even ask you about it **Matthew 5:16**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Another trait of a true disciple is they respond to the truth of God's Word
- If you know you are prone to judge people, forming critical opinions of them, instead of seeing them as precious creations of God for His glory – repent, ask Him to help you
- If you have allowed some negative behavior against someone, whether you can justify it or not – repent
- If you have withheld forgiveness from anyone for any reason – repent

- If you have not been generous when you could have been – repent
- What you sow, you will reap – the measure you use will be used back to you
- The abundant life is a promise to the followers of Christ
- But to experience we must choose to live abundantly toward others
- Let's all be true disciples of Christ
- **Pray!**