

## Luke 6:37-45 Relating to Sinners

As disciples of Jesus we are being trained to relate to sinners as Jesus does.

How does a fully trained disciple of Jesus relate to sinners?

Contrast Jesus, the master, with the “blind” Pharisees and Scribes (39-40).

### 1) Hopeful mercy (6:36-38)

- a) Background of vv. 37-38: Pharisees and Scribes critical of Jesus and His disciples (5:17, 21, 30; 6:2, 7, 11), which included prejudgment and condemnation of sinners that Jesus reached out to (5:29-32)
- b) “Judge not” and “condemn not”—not excluding moral discernment, correction and condemnation absolutely; rather, warning against a hard attitude toward sinners that writes them off as hopeless cases
- c) Two negative prohibitions (judge not, condemn not) followed by two positive commands (forgive, give) provide a full-bodied picture of the attitude of Jesus toward sinners, which is also to be the attitude of His disciples—a generous spirit of mercy and grace
- d) Generous love toward others is evidence of God’s grace already in you, which increases assurance of God’s generous love toward you in the end—pressed down, shaken together, running over.
- e) Jesus does not ignore our sin or sweep it under the rug. And this is not what He requires of His disciples. Instead, He brings the good news of His redemption, which is Himself, to sinners.
- f) How quickly do you write people off as beyond the hope of redemption? Are you trusting in the “goodness” of people, or in the power of God through the gospel?

### 2) Humble correction (6:41-42)

- a) Of specks and logs: a stingy spirit of pride that delights in fault finding is a log; neglecting justice, mercy and faithfulness (Matt 23:23)
- b) “Remove the log from your own eye” requires humble self-examination and repentance. This gives moral clarity so that we can see clearly as we try to help others.
- c) “To take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye” means that mutual correction should be a normal part of life together.
- d) Are you open to correction? Have you invited anyone to ask you hard questions about your walk with Christ?

### 3) Holy words (6:43-45)

- a) Fruit is determined by the nature of the tree. Evil hearts produce evil. Good hearts produce good. Only the disciple who has been refashioned by the Master can produce good treasure.
- b) Jesus focuses the fruit on what the mouth speaks (v. 45).
- c) Do our words for sinners reflect the heart of Jesus?