

The unfolding of your words gives light.

To Seek and to Save

An Exposition of the Gospel of Luke

³⁹And He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit^a? ⁴⁰A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher^b. ⁴¹Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye^c? ⁴²Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye^d. ⁴³For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit^e. ⁴⁴For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar

^a 6:39 **He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit?”** We understand that Jesus was speaking of the religious leaders of his day. He elsewhere directly rebuked these “blind guides.”

You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.”

After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, “Hear and understand. It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.” Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?” But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”
Matthew 15:7-14

You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! Mathew 23:20-25

^b 6:40 **A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.** The word translated “fully trained” is also used of the mending of fishing nets. The idea behind the word as it is used here is probably “to make ready for service.” Just as work is put into a fishing net to prepare it to catch fish, work is put into a disciple to equip him to do what his teacher does. A lot of work goes into making one person like another, even though the change is usually gradual.

Keep in mind that Jesus is not only attacking the existing rabbis. He is pointing out the difference that happens when people are His disciples.

^c 6:41 **Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?** Notice that there is here another reference to the eyes, this time to eyes that see. Jesus is using hyperbole to make a point. Hypocrites are much better at pointing out what is wrong in others

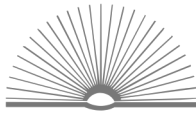
^d 6:42 **first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.** This does not mean you ever become qualified to extract specks. It does mean that self-judgment is a good thing

But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

^e 6:43 **there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit.** There is not need to read into this. A bad tree is one that produces bad fruit and vice versa.

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bush^a.⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart^{b,c}.

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^a 6:44 **each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.** There is a difference here between fruit inspection and judgmentalism.

^b 6:45 **The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.** Simply put, what is inside you will come out

^c 6:39-45 The maxim “You become like those with whom you associate” could also read: “You become like those you admire.” If you most admire professional athletes or entertainers or other famous people you might not think becoming like them is a bad prospect. But Jesus is warning both the followers and the leaders that

These statements all appear to be an indictment on the blind leadership of Israel. The Lord is contrasting His leadership and that of the establishment.

We have been warned about the unjust and inaccurate judgment to which we are prone. You cannot see hearts but you can see when hearts spill. Your words are the overflow of your heart. What is going on in there?

How you can decide what people are worthy role models:

1. Ask yourself: “Where is this person headed?” That is often difficult to see, but good role models will tell you.
2. Ask yourself: “What are the things in my life that do not please God?” Start there.
3. Ask yourself: “What will happen if I become like this person?”
4. Ask yourself: “What in this person’s life is a revelation of his driving force?”

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