

# The Joy of Self-Awareness

*Luke, Pt. 20*

*Luke 6:37-42*

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# I. INTRODUCTION

**a. As many of you know, over the last few weeks we have been studying Luke's recording of the Sermon on the Mount taught by Jesus.**

i. This is a famous sermon by Jesus and each Gospel writer records this sermon for us a bit differently...

- And Luke puts his focus on five specific teachings from Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

ii. And all five of these teachings have something in common in that they are five particular fruits that grow upon the Christian.

- So, we have been calling out time in the Sermon on the Mount - HOW TO SPOT A CHRISTIAN.
- Because Jesus tells us that you know a tree by its fruit.
- It doesn't matter if you say you follow Jesus.
  1. What matters is if your life has evidence that you follow Jesus...something the Bible calls FRUIT.

iii. And, so far, we have studied the first two fruits in the sermon.

- So, if you missed those...go find them on the Podcast.



## **b. But this morning, here is the deal...**

- i. We are going to be talking about THE FRUIT that I think is probably the MOST IMPORTANT and MOST IMPACTFUL for a Christian to be growing today.
  - This is probably one of the hardest fruits to grow.
  - But this is also one of those fruits, that if every person who says they are a follower of Jesus had it, if the church was known...had the reputation...of bearing this fruit...
  - Our witness and our ability to speak prophetically into our culture would grow exponentially.

## **c. We live in a culture today...that really is unprecedented.**

- i. And I don't say that flippantly.
  - But our ability to communicate with one another, express opinions, form factions, and add commentary to current events...
  - Online...instantaneously...
  - Is unprecedented.
- ii. And there is so much good that comes from that...
  - Like the fact that we can live stream (at low cost) to you during a global pandemic...is an AMAZING thing!
- iii. But, one of the things that is happening as a result of this culture...is we are more quick to judge the character of a person before we even know the person.



- We are more quick to condemn a person...based on very surface level evidence or assumptions...before we even know them personally.
  - If someone makes a certainly political argument for ANYTHING...you'll now have a group of people who think highly of your character and a group of people who think you're the scum of the earth...WITHOUT EVEN TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOU!
    1. This is how our politicians lead us.
    2. This is the example that the talking heads set for us.
    3. This is what our echo chambers reinforce for us.
- iv. **And unfortunately, this behavior is alive and well within the walls of the church.**
- I see it at the denominational level as Christian leaders from different traditions are leading just like our politicians.
    1. If you don't agree with them 100% than they character assassinate you.
  - I see it on the local level in how small cliques and factions can even be found within the church...
    1. And even we can be so quick to judge, condemn, and make assumptions about others before we even sit down and have a meal with them and get to know them!
  - How quick are we to make wholesale assumptions about someone based on a look or a passing comment?



1. How quick are we to make assumptions about someone based on a social media post?
2. How quick are we to make assumptions about someone based on:
  - i. how they look
  - ii. how they dress
  - iii. how they vote
  - iv. how they eat
  - v. how they parent
  - vi. how clean their house is
  - vii. what kind of car they drive
  - viii. the way that they laugh
  - ix. the way that they worship
  - x. the way they show their stress
  - xi. how often they come to church
  - xii. the way they pray
  - xiii. AND ALL OF THE THINGS THAT THEY DON'T DO THAT WE THINK THEY SHOULD DO...

**d. So, just imagine what it would be like to be a part of a community and a church family...and the people in that community were the most un-assuming, non-judgmental, give you the benefit of the doubt, type of people that you have ever been around.**

- i. And just imagine...the kind of witness, the kind of impact, the reputation that the GLOBAL CHURCH would have if that were true of every follower of Jesus.



- Where people say...I don't know if I believe what they believe...but those people...those Jesus people...are the most kind, unassuming, gentle, non-judgmental, people I have ever been around.
- And just because of that...it makes me intrigued about that they believe.
- Because around them...around those Christians...I feel safe.
- Imagine that.

## II. LUKE 6:37-42

### a. And Jesus teaches us about a particular fruit that we must produce as Christians if we are to be these kinds of people.

- And that fruit...is **SELF-AWARENESS**.
  - We cannot see other people clearly unless we have the humility to see ourselves clearly first.

### b. Read **Luke 6:37-42**

- 37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
- 39 He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. 41 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s



eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 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."

**c. Now, I want us to talk about the last part of this passage first starting in v.41 first - and we'll talk about the beginning of the passage in a few minutes.**

- i. Jesus asks a very probing question - why is it so easy for you to point out this small, little speck in your neighbor's eye, when you don't even have the SELF-AWARENESS to see the log in your own eye?
- We all can understand the illustration that Jesus is using, but the question we need to ask is what does Jesus mean by a speck and what does Jesus mean by a log?
  - Is Jesus essentially saying that in order to be able to confront someone on something, the degree to which you might be guilty of the same offense has to be less than the other person.
    1. Like, I can only get on to my wife for leaving her towel on the floor, ONLY if I never leave my towel on the floor?
    2. I can only ask someone to watch their mouth ONLY if I always watch my mouth.
    3. Is that what this is? Who is guilty of the offense more?



- I don't think this is what Jesus is getting at here.
- ii. Because, in this teaching, Jesus is not saying that we should never confront one another or point out the speck in another person's eye.
  - Look at the end of v.42, Jesus says, "...first, take the log out of your own eye, then you'll SEE CLEARLY to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."
  - So, the log is not about who is better or less guilty of an offense than the other person, the log is something that BLINDS you from being able to SEE your brother or sister CLEARLY.
    1. And one must have self-awareness and humility - when you see a speck in your brother's/sister's eye - to stop and examine yourself to see if a log might be blinding you.

**d. So, what is the log that could be in our eye that blinds us from seeing our brother's/sister's clearly?**

- i. Here is my definition of the log:
  - The log in our eye is any desire to point out the speck in our neighbor's eye other than genuine love and care for our neighbor.
    1. Repeat - ANY DESIRE
- ii. So, I want you to think about the times when you point out something that's wrong with another person, at least in your opinion.
  - And this can be done in multiple ways...
    1. Remember, Jesus asks us - "How can we SEE a speck in our brother's eye with a log in our own eye (v.41).



2. He also asks why we could actually confront someone over the speck in their eye if we have a log in our own eye. (V.42)
  3. We can point out specks to people in person through a confrontation. We can also point out specks through our own silent judgement or through talking to other people about it - gossip and slander.
- But when we notice something wrong with another person, when we are dwelling on someone else's flaws...it's not usually from a place of genuine, loving care for that person.
    1. Often times, we have other desires and motivations that are causing us to focus on that speck...and these desires are the logs in our eye.
  - And the reason why logs blind you from seeing the other person clearly is because the log causes you to make assumptions about the other person in order to help fill your desire.
- iii. **So, let's say one day you walk into the kitchen in your house and you find that your spouse, or your roommate, or your kids, left a big mess.**
- And you're upset because this happens all the time and you're tired of having to clean up after them.
  - This is a speck.
    1. And don't get me wrong, it can be very loving to address this problem.
    2. Jesus is not saying that we don't address issues.



- But, here's the log...
  1. In a rush of frustration, you begin to list out all the things that you do around the house and all the things the other person does not do.
  2. You are so focused on this speck that you now have painted this person in your mind as a sloppy pig who doesn't consider any other person.
  3. And so, you confront that other person armed with a list of everything that is wrong with them.
  4. And you let all that frustration out in an attempt to make the other person feel bad...because that's your true desire...to punish them.
  5. The log causes you to make assumptions and exaggerations to fuel your desire to punish them...and it has done nothing to actually address the real issue.
- Or maybe, the log looks like...
  1. A wave of bitterness rushes over your countenance.
  2. You go silent as you remember all of the other times this has happened.
  3. You start cleaning the dishes with a few sighs thrown in and making a little more noise than usual so the other person notices.
  4. You hope that the other person will feel guilty because you are cleaning their mess.
  5. But the longer they don't catch on, the more you're assumption about them is reinforced...they are clueless and inconsiderate.



6. And when they ask if something is wrong...you say everything is fine.
  7. But your silence, your cold shoulder, your bitter look is all designed to make the other person squirm.
- See, the desire that these logs represent is the desire for retribution - to make the other person feel bad.
    1. If your married, I would guess that over 50% of your conflicts are complicated by this particular log.
    2. Wanting to make the other person feel bad.
  - So, Imagine, then, If we had the self-awareness to say...
    1. I'm angry. I'm frustrated right now. Now is not a good time to deal with this because what my heart wants is to make the other person feel bad.
    2. So, when this log is out of my eye, I will be able to have a conversation with the other person in a much more productive and loving way.
    3. That's not easy!
- iv. **And there are all kinds of different logs that blind us from clearly seeing other people.**
- It could be the log of fear.
    1. Maybe another person's appearance or behavior makes you uncomfortable...and so you make all sorts of assumptions...
  - The log of wanting to show yourself as better.
  - The log of getting likes on social media.
    1. So you go after groups of people, make accusations, and contribute to the childish dialogue of our day.



- The log of just wanting to win the argument.
  - The log of annoyance.
    1. Preaching to myself here for a second...but parents...we often are pointing out specks in our kid's eyes...could the log in our own eye be that we are just annoyed...or embarrassed.
  - The log of wanting to be in charge.
    1. Maybe we keep finding flaws in our boss at work because we think we would do a better job.
  - And, I'm sure, there are many, many more...
- v. **And all of these logs cause us to make assumptions about others to fuel our desire...and it damages our relationships.**
- And Jesus is calling upon us as His followers to do something different and distinct in this world.
    1. To have self-awareness and to do the introspective work of getting that log out of the way before we continue to think about the speck in that other person's eye.
  - !! - And that every single time we are dealing with another person's flaw...it is not self-serving...but it is always loving, gentle, and caring.
    1. Could you imagine if Jesus' church was known for that.
    2. Not for being judgmental.
    3. But gentle, caring, and safe.



### **III. THE GOSPEL**

#### **a. This fruit...the fruit of self-awareness...Is a distinctly Christian fruit...**

- i. Because we have a God who sees us with perfect clarity...Including every flaw (and we have a lot of flaws)...and yet He perfectly loves us.
  - We have a God with nothing in His eye...no desire other than genuine, loving care for us.
  - And so, for the Christian, It Is safe for us to have self-awareness...to admit our self-serving motives...because we will not be met with condemnation nor punishment...but we'll be met with the grace of God!
  - Family, if you depend on the Gospel...
    1. You have NOTHING to lose when It comes to being self-aware.
    2. You have NOTHING to hide!
    3. He already knows it all and He already accepts you.
- ii. Like, this Is the GOSPEL.
  - God can clearly see our flaws and he does point them out..but he does so with perfect clarity and out of genuine, loving care for us to the point that He sent Jesus to rescue us from our sin and flaws.
    1. God doesn't deal with our flaws in such a way that damages our relationship with him.
    2. No, He, at His own expense, deals with our flaws in such a way that makes us closer with Him.



**b. And so, it makes absolutely no sense that Jesus' church would have a reputation for being judgmental and for condemning people.**

- i. How could we judge others, make assumptions, and push people away...when God did the opposite for us?
  - This Is why Jesus' teaching on this topic begins the way It does.
    1. "For with the measure that you forgive others, you condemn others, you judge others...It will be measured back to you."
  - Jesus Is essentially saying that If you have actually received the mercy and the grace of God..if you have the self-awareness to know that you need the mercy and grace of God...then you will be a merciful and gracious person.
  - And it's impossible to be a gracious and merciful person if we don't have self-awareness.

**c. You know, there is a lot of talk about how the Church needs to influence culture or wage a culture war in our country for Biblical Values.**

- i. We need to fight for marriage, the life of the unborn, religious liberty, oppose the sexual revolution, among other things.
  - All good things to advocate for...



- ii. But, often times, this “fight” that some speak of looks a lot like dwelling on the specks in our neighbor’s or our culture’s eye.
  - Judging and condemning people for their lifestyle or their ideology.
  - Making accusations and often times, exaggerations, in order to fight this war.
- iii. **Jesus never called upon His church to fight a culture war.**
  - And I believe that there are a few logs in the eye of the American Evangelical Church.
    1. The log of power and influence.
    2. The log of fear of losing our way of life.
    3. The log of wanting to be proven right.
    4. The log of church growth.
  - It doesn’t feel like the desire and motivation is rooted in genuine love and care for our neighbors.
- iv. **See, remember what Jesus said...first get the log out of your eye, then you’ll see clearly to take out the speck in your neighbor’s eye.**
  - Imagine how effective the voice of the church would be...how prophetically we could speak into our culture...if we got these logs out of our eyes...
    1. Because we would actually see clearly...
    2. And we would understand that Jesus has not called us to fight a war but to make disciples...one soul at a time...



## **d. So, I'll say it again, imagine with me...**

- Being a part of a church where people have the self-awareness to get the logs out of their eyes and they always act out of genuine loving care...
- Imagine the witness and the credibility of our voice if we interacted with our culture in this way...

### **i. It starts with you. It starts with me.**

- Let's be people who have self-awareness and examine ourselves before we try and deal with the speck in our neighbor's eye, in our kid's eye, in our spouse's eye, in one another's eye, in our culture's eye.
- And we can only grow in self-awareness through growing in our awareness of God's unrelenting love for us shown by His grace and mercy.
- God always acts out of genuine love for us.
- And now he has called us to love one another and our neighbor in the same way.

## **IV. PRAY**

