

Learning to See (Part 1)

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 6:37-42



Big Idea

Jesus wants His church to be known for their mercy, love, and kindness. With both the Father's genetics and the Son's training, we can be sure that we will grow in these things for His glory!

(1) The Disciple's Genetics (vv. 37-38)

- To “*judge*” someone is to set myself over them and cut them down.
- To “*condemn*” someone just takes this judgment to its logical end. We are no longer merely cutting them down now, we are, in essence, cutting them off. It is to say: “I’m through with you and, you know what, God is through with you too!”
- What’s translated “*forgive*” here is, in the Greek, a word which more broadly means: “to grant acquittal, set free, release, pardon” (BDAG). It’s a word that conjures up imagery of cell doors being opened and prisoners being released.
- To “*give*” here again just takes this forgiveness to its logical end. Here’s the astonishing thing about the Christian: We don’t just forgive our enemies, we “bless” them (v. 28).

When we read these vv. in light of what precedes them in v. 36, we see that the call for us to be merciful (not judging or condemning, but forgiving and giving) is grounded in the mercy God has already been showing us. And, even more than this, with the mention of God as our “Father”, Jesus makes it plain He is talking to those who have been born again, adopted into the family of God, and now draw from His gene pool.

(2) The Disciple's Training (vv. 39-40)

Jesus identifies the goal of discipleship in the last part of v. 40: “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” So the ultimate goal of discipleship to Jesus is that the disciple becomes “like” Jesus.

But Jesus puts alongside this the idea of being “fully trained”. And there’s this beautiful sense to the word translated here that more broadly includes the idea of being repaired or restored. It’s the word used to describe what the fishermen James and John were doing with their nets in Mark 1:19: they were “mending” them.

So discipleship to Jesus is being repaired, restored, mended by Him in such a way that we start to look more and more like Him when it’s all done. He is what repaired humanity looks like. And He invites us to follow Him and learn from Him.

Reflection Questions



- What do you want our church to be known for? Why? How can you help cultivate this?
- Have you ever been condemned by another in the church? How did it affect you? How does the gospel free you from this?
- Is there anyone in your prison right now? Is anyone in your life down in the dungeons of your heart? Explain. Why is it critical that we let them out? How do we find the strength to do this?
- How are you doing at being a disciple (“learner”) of Jesus? How close are you staying to Him? Are you running ahead of Him? Are you speaking over Him? In what ways? Why do you think? How have you experienced Him “mending” your heart lately?