

# Learning to See (Part 2)

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

By way of the cross, Jesus is taking us from our v. 37 judgments that are arrogant, condemning, and destructive and moving us towards v. 42 judgments that are humble, loving, and reparative.

### (1) The Heights of Our Hypocrisy (vv. 41-42a)

The force of Jesus' point comes at us in the interrogatives that are just left hanging in the air to haunt us: "Why?" and "How?" With these two questions, Jesus puts his finger on a very uncomfortable reality. He is calling us quite forcefully to face our own tendency towards what we might call: self-deception. There is something in me that distorts the way I see me, and consequently, the way I see God, other people, and the facts of life around me. Jesus is saying there is something wrong with my eyes!

The answer to Jesus' questions comes to us from Puritan pastor Richard Sibbes: *"It [would be] an easy thing to be a Christian, if religion stood only in a few outward works and duties, but to take the soul to task, and to deal [thoroughly] with our own hearts, and to let conscience have its full work, and to bring the soul into spiritual subjection unto God, this is not so easy a matter, **because the soul out of self-love is [reluctant] to enter into itself, lest it should have other thoughts of itself than it [desires to] have.**"* Because I love myself, I don't want to look too intently at myself, because I know, if God were to really open my eyes to what's there, I won't like what I see.

So instead we prefer to go dark to God and exalt ourselves over others. Judgmentalism distracts us away from our own mortality, it inebriates our own sense of weakness and insignificance, it clouds any clear sighting of our own sinfulness and depravity. It allows us for a moment to forget our desperate need for God, while we instead pretend to be Him.

### (2) The Depths of Our Humility (v. 42b)

The best way that I know to get to such a place of *humble sight* is to let the cross of Christ have its full way with us. You see, the cross of Christ declares two all-important truths to me at one and the same time (to put it in the fashion of Tim Keller): On the one hand, it says that I am far more sinful and depraved than I ever dared fear—for Christ *had* to die to redeem me. But, on the other hand, it says that I am far more loved and accepted than I ever dared dream—for Christ *chose* to die to redeem me.

When once I've let the cross of Christ have its full way with me, I see myself, God, you, the facts of life all differently, rightly.

## Reflection Questions



- Has an unbeliever ever quoted Luke 6:37 to you ("Judge not") as you tried to share with them the gospel? How did you respond? How would you respond now after reflecting on these verses?
- Have you ever had a moment like David with Nathan, where suddenly your eyes were opened to the log that's been there for quite some time? How did it happen? What did you learn from this?
- Think about one relationship that's been riddled with conflict lately. Have you been prone to locate all the blame in them? How would vv. 41-42 help reorient you in this? What would it mean to see yourself and them in the light of the cross?