

LEADING THE BLIND

Ever play the game "blind-man's bluff"? What if everyone was blindfolded? That would be an exercise in futility. Jesus makes a point like this in Luke 6. He explains how His followers must learn to become like Him, which is the meaning of the world disciple.

And Jesus' teaching marks a radical departure from the default mode of the world. In verses 27-38, He says love not only your neighbors, but your enemies. He says do to others what you want them to do to you. Jesus says be merciful, as God is merciful. He says condemn not, for you will be judged with the same measure you pronounce condemnation upon others.

Jesus says leave condemnatory judgment to God, and leave room for Him to bring people to repentance and faith. Discern and judge yourself before you jump to condemn others. Don't be blind to hypocrisy in your own life.

ARE YOU BLIND? - If so, then don't try to lead others. In verses 39-40, Jesus told His disciples a parable. "*Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be like his teacher.*" Disciples are trainees, on a path to being able to discern like their master.

An author writes of seeing a blind woman with a seeing-eye dog and a car blocking their path. The dog nudged her leg to turn, but she commanded him to go. He nudged, and she kicked him. The dog nudged again. She stormed ahead, into the car. Then she dropped to the ground in tears speaking tenderly to her guide, probably asking forgiveness and praising his faithfulness.

We are so like that woman. We insist we are right and others are wrong, even when we are blind to the realities of the situation, especially when we want to judge others with condemnation. We deserve to smack right into an obstacle we can't see.

BLIND GUIDES - "The blind leading the blind" was a widespread proverb in ancient literature. Like Jesus' audience, we tend to apply it not to ourselves but to the people around us. In Matthew 11:14 and 23:23-24, Jesus applied the term "blind guides" to the Pharisees and scribes.

These religious leaders were rightly concerned about the behavior of the people. But they kept their own traditions and neglected God's law. In their self-righteousness they missed the very righteousness of God right in front of them, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We're called to be followers not of Pharisees, but of Jesus.

Being disciples means learning what the master teaches, and living it out. The disciple is to be like his master, a principle practiced throughout the Graeco-Roman-Judaic world of His day.

BE TRAINED - "Prayer, study of God's Word, and the illumination of the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to see, to grow in grace himself, then to help others do the same. The better his vision, the better disciple he will be," observes RK Hughes. That's becoming fully trained.

In verse 40 Jesus says His disciples will know and do God's Word. "Test all things, Bible in hand, by the Holy Spirit within," notes JC Ryle. "Test everything" by God's written-down Word (1John 4:1, 1Thessalonians 5:21). Because, "*all Scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work*" (2Tim 3:16-17). Be fully trained in God's Word!

FOLLOW CHRIST - "A disciple cannot lead the teacher; the master must lead the follower," notes RC Sproul. "Often we want to be in the position of leadership, even with respect to Christ, forgetting who we are and who He is." But disciples are to become like Him, and the only way is by trusting and obeying God's Word as written. As Psalm 119:15 declares, "*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*"

Remember the context and content of Luke 6:27-40. We've seen how Jesus prohibits the condemnatory judging of others, presuming we know their motives, and standing to correct and judge them. Rather, disciples are expected to practice discerning judgment, evaluating good versus bad, avoiding evil, and correcting ourselves by the standard of God's written Word.

When it comes to yourself, you may not be permanently blind, but momentarily disabled. We'll explore more about this next time. Meantime, God's Word is your corrective lens! ☐