

The Bible

Luke 6:37–42

Judging Others

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. . . ."

He also told them this parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

From *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Bible Publishers, 1984.

1. According to the Gospel, what will happen if a person does not judge another?
2. What is meant by "a good measure"? Why should a person give one?
3. What do the verses say will happen if a blind man tries to lead a blind man?
4. Why does the parable criticize the person who tries to get the sawdust out of his brother's eye?
5. According to these teachings, why should people be good to other people? Give an example of what this might look like in real life.
6. Why do you think the parable about the speck of sawdust and the plank is supposed to teach readers?

The Book of Matthew 5:38–48

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Source: *The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989.

1. How does Jesus' teaching compare with the "eye for an eye" philosophy?
2. How does Jesus' teaching compare with the idea of "loving your neighbor and hating your enemy"?
3. Why does Jesus say that people should love their enemies?
4. How do you think people listening to Jesus might have reacted? How would you react?