

“We Will Be Treated as We Treat Others”
(Luke 6:37-38)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

So far Jesus has told us:

That if we belong to Him,

We will put His kingdom first:

By recognizing our own bankruptcy –

As far as our righteousness is concerned –

And trusting Jesus alone for our acceptance;

By giving up everything to follow Him;

Hating and putting off our own sins;

And grieving over the sins of those around us

Enough to reach out and do something about it –

He also told us

If we do these things

We will be hated by the world –

We’ll be social outcasts –

We won’t fit in,

We’ll be looked at as evil

Simply for believing and holding to what’s right –

That’s why Jesus tells us to count the cost

Before we begin to follow Him –

This is *what we must be willing to pay.*

But when we are hated –

He tells us –

We need to respond in love:

We are to return good for their evil:

Bless them,

Pray for them,

Not retaliate or try to get even,

But serve them –

In short,

Jesus tells us

To treat them in the same way

We would want them to treat us

If we were in the same situation:

To do what the Good Samaritan did

When he saw his enemy in need.

Don't forget,

Jesus isn't telling us to do these things to be saved;

He's already saved us and given us the power

To be like our heavenly Father –

Who is 'kind to ungrateful and evil men' (Luke 6:35) –

He tells us to do this,

That He might show the world

Who He really is.

If we do,
 Not only will we prove to ourselves and others
 That we are His children (v. 35),
 But He will reward us.

B. Preview.

This morning, He goes on
 To tell us what these rewards are: (rewards of grace)

II. Sermon.

A. The first is that we will not be judged.

Verse 37, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged.”

Jesus appears to have our enemies still in view:

They’re the ones we’d be tempted to judge or condemn,

That we need to pardon,

And the ones He’s told us

That we should help when in need.

But we should see this also

As applying to everyone –

Even brothers and sisters in the Lord –

Because we can all be

Just a word or action away

From becoming each other’s enemy.

First, He tells us not to judge.

We’ve probably heard someone say –

When they’ve done something wrong

And we’re calling them to account –

“Judge not, lest you be judged;”

“Jesus tells us we may not judge anyone.”

Is that what He’s saying –

We’re never to judge anyone in any sense?

If that was true,

How could government work?

How could they reward those who *do good*

And punish those who *do evil* –

As they are called by God to do –

If they’re forbidden to form an opinion

Regarding anyone’s actions (Rom. 13:1-4)?

How could the elders of the church

Know whether to admit someone to membership –

Or exclude them –

If they weren’t able to evaluate

Whether they had a believable faith?

How could we know whether to receive

Someone as a brother or sister in Christ,

Or avoid them as bad company

If we weren’t allowed to make a determination?

How could we admonish

Each other in the Lord

As we’re called to by Paul,

Unless we're able to form some kind of judgment
About what each other is doing?

How could we know what teachers to listen to
If we couldn't compare what they say
And how they live with Scripture (Matt. 7:15-18)?

Jesus isn't telling us
That all judgment is wrong:

What He is saying
Is that we need to break the habit
Of criticizing others,
Quickly and unjustly,
Because we're prejudiced against them.

Gill says Jesus here refers to "rash judgment, interpreting men's words and deeds in the worst sense, and censuring them in a very severe manner."

The word Jesus uses is *krino*,
From which we get "criticize."

A clearer way of translating the force of what Jesus says here is,
"Stop being critical:
This is what you're doing,
But you need to end it."

He goes on to tell us,
That if we'll do this –

If we'll put ourselves in their position,

And treat them the way we would want to be treated –

And He's already given us the power to do this –

We will not be judged/criticized –

It's stronger in the original:

“You shall *by no means* be judged.”

Not as strongly by others –

Which is what often happens

When we constantly criticize –

But more importantly, *not by God*.

B. The second blessing is: we will not be condemned.

Jesus says, “Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned” (v. 37).

The idea here is similar to the first:

That we are not to be quick

To judge our enemy guilty

And deserving of punishment.

Again, Jesus isn't telling us

That we can't carefully, prayerfully and deliberately

Observe someone's life;

Come to a conclusion about their actions,

And their spiritual state –

Understanding we might still be wrong –

And act on that conclusion for their good.

He's simply saying again,

We need to put ourselves in their shoes,
And treat them as we want to be treated:
That we not condemn them so quickly
As James and John,
When they judged a village
To be worthy of destruction
And asked Jesus for permission
To call down fire from heaven.

If we see that kind of heart in ourselves,
Jesus says we need to repent
And put this sin to death.

If we do –
And again, we have the power to do this,
If we believe in Jesus –
We shall *by no means* be condemned –
Not so quickly by others,
But more importantly,
Not by God on the Day of Judgment.

C. The third blessing is, we will be forgiven.

He says, “Pardon, and you will be pardoned” (v. 37).

If we’re letting go
Of the things others have done to us;
If we’re showing them mercy
As a pattern of life –

We *will be* forgiven:

We *are* forgiven now –

Others will be more likely to forgive us;

But more importantly,

God has for all our sins –

And we *will be* forgiven in the future

On the Day of His Judgment.

Do we need to forgive our enemies

Even if they don't ask for forgiveness?

Yes.

We won't be fully reconciled

With those who injure us

Unless they ask for our forgiveness,

But we still need to forgive them –

Not hold a grudge against them,

Want to be reconciled with them –

Even if they don't –

Remember Jesus on the cross.

D. The final blessing is, we will be enriched materially.

Jesus says, "Give, and it will be given to you" (v. 38).

He's already told us

We are to give to everyone who asks (v. 30) –

Even to our enemies.

Here, He tells us if we do,

It will be given to us –

“They will pour into your lap a good measure – pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over” (v. 38).

At a church I attended years ago,

The pastor used to quote this verse every week:

Give and it will be given to you –

By which he meant,

“Give to this church/me, and God will give to you.”

“How much will He give?

Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over.

If you want to be rich, give to the church.”

That’s not what Jesus is saying:

If we give to our enemies when they’re in need –

If we’re generous with them,

God will be generous with us –

He will move others to give to us.

How much will they give?

“By your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return” (v. 38).

We will be blessed

To the same degree

That we bless others.

Summary:

If we don't criticize,

We won't be criticized;

If we don't condemn,

We won't be condemned;

If we forgive,

We will be forgiven;

If we give,

It will be given to us.

This is simple justice:

Quid pro quo –

You do this, you get that.

E. In closing,

Let's consider the negative side of justice:

If we don't know Him,

And so aren't doing what He commands:

If we don't stop criticizing others,

We will be criticized;

Jesus, "For in the way you judge, you will be judged" (Matt. 7:2).

If we continue to condemn,

We will be condemned.

If we aren't willing to forgive,

We will not be forgiven.

Jesus says in Matthew 6:14-15,

“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

If we are tightfisted,

God will be tightfisted with us,

Especially with regard to His mercy:

If this describes our life,

And we're not working to overcome these sins,

It's very likely we don't know the Lord.

If that's where you are this morning,

Turn to the Lord:

He's gracious and merciful;

He's willing to receive anyone

Who will turn from their sins

And come to Him in faith.

None of us here are perfect –

We all fall short –

But if we belong to Him,

We'll not only want to do these things,

We'll actually be doing them,

And want to do them better.

May God give us His grace to do so,

Through His Son Jesus. Amen.