

2020

The Game Plan

LUKE

GOSPEL FOR EVERY *ONE*

Luke 6:39-45

Lee Scott

Chesmont

2/9/2020



*When you were in his keeping*

- h. It was at that – we see Jean Val Jean breath his last breath – But its not over because he is escorted by the Spirit of Cosette’s mother – Fantine – the woman he had shown mercy on all those years before.

**Fantine:**

*Come with me  
Where chains will never bind you  
All your grief  
At last, at last behind you.  
Lord in Heaven,  
Look down on him in mercy.*

**Valjean:**

*Forgive me all my trespasses  
And take me to your glory.*

*The song changes from a solo to duet...*

**Fantine & Eponine:**

*Take my hand  
I'll lead you to salvation.  
Take my love,  
For love is everlasting.*

*And then from a duet to a trio...*

**Valjean, Fantine & Eponine:**

*And remember  
The truth that once was spoken  
To love another person  
Is to see the face of God.*

**BODY**

VII How's This Working For You?

- A. Now it was Ghandi who pointed out the wisdom of Jesus' emphasis on mercy when He said, *"If the whole world lived by the eye-for-an-eye principle, the whole world would go blind."*
- B. Which leads us to the next section of Jesus' teaching.

**Slide #28 - Scripture**

C. Luke 6:39-40 –

**He also told them 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 he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”**

- D. It’s likely He’s talking about the religious leaders here.
- E. So many people are blind but they’re following people who claim to see but are blind as well.
- F. Both will fall into a pit.
- G. But there’s also a principle here – we become like who we are following.
- H. Who are you following?
- I. One of the real questions is – are they helping you to see God as merciful and live more mercifully?
- J. If not, they’re blind and you’re headed for a pit.
- K. Because a world without mercy is the pits.

**Slide #29 – Blank Slide**

VIII The 2 x 4 Protruding From Your Eye

- A. And speaking of blind guides Jesus says this next.

**Slide #30 and #31 - Scripture**

**B. Luke 6:41-42**

**“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye?”**

**#31**

**You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.”**

**Slide #32 – Blank Slide**

- C. Jesus in essence says the blind guides have logs in their own eyes – they can’t really see to help someone else because they’ve got a 2 x 4 protruding from their own eye.
- D. They think they see but they don’t.
- E. They have no self-awareness when it comes to their own sin and need for mercy.
- F. It’s worth noting that Jesus doesn’t forbid helping people with the specks in their eye.

- G. But His larger point is that so many of the religious leaders and guides of the day are in no position to - because they have planks in their own eye.
- H. Once you become aware of the plank in your own eye and receive the help needed to remove it, it affects how you approach people about their eyes.
- I. You do so with much more humility and mercy because you yourself know what it is to have something in your eyes.
- J. Because living mercifully involves more than just what's in your eyes.
- K. It has something to do with what transpires in your hearts.
- L. Which brings us to the final thing Jesus says.

## IX The Heart Of The Matter

### Slide #33 and #34 - Scripture

A. Luke 6:43-45

**"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.**

### #34

**The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."**

- B. One of the Things that Jesus is acknowledging in this part of his sermon is that we live from the heart for better or for worse.
- C. Our words and our actions are out of the overflow of our heart,
- D. and this tells us a couple things.
- E. Sometimes you don't know where your heart really is until you take some time and evaluate your words and your actions. Have you ever found yourself saying something and it shocked you how angry you were? And you'd say... "I didn't know that was in there".

**And you can learn where your heart really is by sometimes your words and your actions.**

- F. But it also tells you that if you want your words and your actions to be transformed, you have to begin to pay attention to your heart. And the reason I'm saying this is...
- G. this is so important because you can misunderstand what Jesus is saying here and jump to the wrong conclusions.

H. There are a lot of do's and don'ts in this passage that we looked at. In fact, I want to go back to a passage from last weeks lesson - because I just want you to see this. Here's some "DO'S".

### Slide #35 – Do . . .

#### I. Do...(Luke 6:27-31)

- Do love your enemies
- Do good to those who hate you
- Do bless those who curse you
- Do give to everyone who begs from you
- Do to others what you would have them do to you

### Slide #36 – Don't only . . .

And then He has come Don'ts

#### J. Don't only...(Luke 6:32-34)

- Don't only love those who love you
- Don't only do good to people who do good to you
- Don't only give to those who repay you

### Slide #37 – Dos and Don'ts . . .

#### K. Dos and Don'ts continues...(Luke 6:37-38)

- Don't judge.
- Don't condemn.
- Do forgive.
- Do give.

L. And if you're not careful, you can begin to see this as some kind of checklist of stuff you do and you don't do and keep up with. And the last thing I want you is to leave here and thinking, I'm going to go to mercy and I've got to keep this list. And which one am I going to work on it? I'm going to grade myself. That's the last thing I want to happen.

M. Because ultimately these things are things that arise out of a heart that's merciful.

And that's why Jesus wraps up a lot of his message by talking about the heart, because the kind of life that he calls us to is not a life where you can just tack this on to a heart that's in bad condition - Like you tack on grapes on a thorn Bush.

### Slide #38 – Living mercifully . . .

No, this is something that has to work from the inside out.

**N.** Living mercifully is a product of having a merciful heart and

**O.** At the heart of the problem of a lack of mercy is the problem of the heart.

And so this isn't simply a matter of us going out and finding something merciful to do. It's slowing down for a moment and even considering how merciful are we in our thought life toward people?

You don't get any credit for saying, "well, I didn't hit my wife today". No, you don't get any credit for that, but rather will you stop and consider - Did I think about it? Did I fantasize about it?

You don't get as much credit as you think you might get for not cussing out your boss today. But instead you stop and think about how often do I think about my boss in cursing ways.

Jesus is backing this whole thing up because you live from the heart for better or for worse, and if you want your actions and your words to be transformed, you have to begin with your heart being transformed.

Living mercifully is a product of having a merciful heart.

Living mercifully is a product of seeing God as merciful. **But You know what?**

P. Jesus wouldn't bring up the heart if there wasn't hope for it.

Q. Because the same power that's coming from Jesus at the beginning of the passage that's touching bodies...

R. Is the same power that's available to transform the human heart.

S. So how's YOUR heart?

T. I know a GREAT PHYSICIAN!

And so a few years back, there was a reporter assigned to following an emergency room nurse around for an evening.

They were doing a big cover story on what it's like to be a nurse

And the writer told one particular story toward the end of the article of watching a nurse take a homeless man who had wandered into the hospital and was in terrible condition.

He had vomited all over himself, I mean everywhere! And that journalist watched this nurse so patiently clean his face and wipe his vomit off of his clothes.

Give him a toothbrush and toothpaste and attend to him in the midst of the foulest smell.

And there was a person in the bed next to the homeless person there who said to the nurse, "lady, I wouldn't do that for \$1 million". And she said, "neither would I".

**Be merciful.... for your Father is merciful.**

### **Slide #39 – Communion Questions**

U. As we take communion, I left you three questions to reflect on.

The first is this,

- **Examine your heart. How inclined are you to think mercifully toward others? and just ask him to increase the inclination** - because it begins with the heart and the thought life
- And then consider - **How has God been merciful to you?** Or maybe the third one tugs at your heart.
- **Who has modeled a "merciful life** to you?

Well, those are 3 questions that could shape your prayer life all week and let's get started right now!

I want to ask those serving communion to go to their places...

Everyone is welcome at the table of the Lord. Let's pray.

Lord, I thank you for your presence in this place

And we honor you for being absurdly generous and merciful in our life.

We pray just for us, our families, our friendships, our church, that we would be a church that looks more and more like this game plan of Jesus.

That the world would stop and stare and wonder why we prayed that we would have the kind of love and the kind of vibrant kingdom presence among us, that it would provoke questions and we would be able to say, well, this is who our father is and this is what he does.

I pray for my friends who were having trouble seeing you as merciful, that you had dropped the shroud from around their eyes, that you dropped the veil, that you combat the work of the enemy and help them to see how merciful you are.

I pray for others of us in this room for a transformed heart from we realize right now we need a more merciful heart and we dig deep and ask for you to do your good work in us as we eat and drink and are mindful of the body and blood.

So we ask you to do your work within us - for our own good - for the good of the world around us - and for ultimately your glory through Christ. Amen.