

June 18, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Luke 6:37-42 – “Your Standard of Measure”

- A. The beginning of Lu 6:37 has been misused by unbelievers & immoral people for generations.
- B. The end of v38 is your key to understanding all of today’s text: **“For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”**

God calls you to use a righteous standard of measure.	I. YOUR MEASURE IN JUDGMENT II. YOUR MEASURE IN FORGIVENESS III. YOUR MEASURE OF GENEROSITY
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I. YOUR MEASURE IN JUDGMENT → v37

- A. This passage does not forbid pointing out sin as some like to wrongly claim it does.
- In v42, Jesus warned us how we are to speak to others about sin. → v42
 - The adulterous or fornicating man who condemns the homosexual is a good example of this.
 - The hypocritical drunkard has no right to condemn the sin of the drug abuser.
 - Your measure of judgment should always take into account your own sin.
 - Jesus said you are to talk to fellow believers about their sin. Mat 18:15 says, **“If your brother sins, go & show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”**
 - James concluded his epistle by saying you should confront fellow believers about their sin: **“If any among you strays from the truth & one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death & will cover a multitude of sins”** (Ja 5:19-20).
 - Lest one say, “We are to only talk to fellow believers about sin,” Jesus pointed out the sins of the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn 4) & the sins of the Pharisees & lawyers in Lu 11:37-52.
- B. When Jesus said, **“do not condemn, & you will not be condemned,”** He gave us another warning about how we talk to others about sin.
- If you do speak to someone about sin— if they are a professing believer or not— your words should never condemn that person to hell.
 - Jesus has the privilege of being Judge of the living & the dead; He is the one who will separate the sheep from the goats— not you!
 - Even when a person rejects the offer of the gospel, we shouldn’t condemn them to hell. Their present rejection doesn’t mean they will continue to reject the gospel.
 - Always seek to explain the contingencies (the if... then statements) concerning the Jesus & the holy gospel.
 - To condemn someone to hell has a prophetic notion that you are assured they will never repent & believe. Only God knows if they will or not.

II. YOUR MEASURE IN FORGIVENESS — The end of **v37** says, **“pardon, & you will be pardoned.”**

A. Christians are forgiven an immense weight of sin through the work of Jesus.

1. Speaking of the Apostles Creed, the Heidelberg Catechism #44 asks:

Why does the creed add, “He descended into hell”?

A. To assure me during attacks of deepest dread & temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, & terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish & torment.

2. In light of His immense love & hellish suffering in order to forgive you, you ought to forgive others who ask you to forgive them.

a. Peter asked Jesus, **“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me & I forgive him? Up to seven times?”** Jesus said to him, **‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven’ (Mat 18:21-22).**

b. So often, others’ sins that we refuse to forgive are so petty & trivial in comparison the immense weight of our personal sins that required Jesus to bear the shame & pain of the cross.

B. In light of your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, your standard of measure in forgiving others ought to be generous indeed.

1. A professing Christian who refuses to forgive either does not understand his or her duty in light of Christ or that person may have an empty profession altogether.

2. If that person has not asked you to forgive them, perhaps you ought to go to that person & seek to follow the procedure laid down in **Mat 18.**

III. YOUR MEASURE OF GENEROSITY – →**v38**

A. This illustration relates to a container being filled with seed, grain, or perhaps lentils. This isn’t a loosely filled basket; it has been **“pressed down, shaken together, & running...”**

B. I have often used **v38** in reference to giving tithes & offerings.

1. This is a faithful application of this beautiful, famous verse of Scripture.

2. Christians ought not to be stingy when giving to the Lord.

3. Our giving to God pertains to money yet also concerns our time in devotion & service.

C. God promises blessings for those who give in faith & sincerity of heart before Him.

1. God said in **Mal 3:10**, **“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, & test Me now in this,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven & pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”**

2. Paul said in **2 Cor 9:6**, **“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, & he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”**

D. In light of the prior verses we studied in this text, we should consider a wider application when Jesus said, **“Give, & it will be given to you”**

1. This doesn’t say what you should give or to whom you should give it.

2. When you meet unbelievers & talk to them about eternal matters, seek to give words that challenge yet also speak of God’s grace offered to them rather than condemning them.

3. When you are wronged by someone, be willing to give them sincere forgiveness especially when they ask you to forgive them.

Review, further application, & conclusion: