

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “A Tree and Its Fruit” Luke 6

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 6:39-46

### 1. Blind leading the blind

- a. The Lord pointed out that the Jewish religious leaders were blind and they were bound to lead the people to their destruction. In Exodus 4 we read Moses trying not to take on the mission of leading the people of Israel out of Egypt by citing his slow speech and tongue. He had been living with the Midianites for 40 years without speaking the Egyptian language. However, God reminded him that He gave humans their mouths.

*The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.” [Exodus 4:11-12]*

- Psalm 146 sings of this power of God also [Psalm 146:8]

*The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.*

- b. Isaiah saw and spoke about this power of God to be exercised on God’s people through the incarnate Messiah [Isaiah 42:6-7, quoted in Luke 4:18]

*I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*

- c. Lord Jesus healed the blind a number of times and gave them sight to see. He yearned to do the same to the religious people [Pharisees and Scribes], but they would not admit they were blind in spite of the Lord’s clear pronouncement of their condition. He told them to clean out the corruption within them first so that they could receive the sight from God. [Matt 23: 26]

*Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.*

- d. The Lord then taught His disciples not to judge others. What is the connection between having correct sight and judging others? Obviously, unless we have a good vision we cannot see the true condition of another person and therefore, should not present any view on it. And why is He mixing this teaching about judging others with the golden rule teaching? The whole point is that, unless we have God’s vision and mind, i.e. how God sees the humanity, we must not judge others with our limited, human-focused value system. We will only lead others into a destructive pit of mutual death. And He was implying the condition of the Jewish religious leaders of the time. He was seeing “a large plank” in their value system, in the way the religious leaders of the Jewish society viewed God and the people. He was challenging them to throw away the wrongness of their value system and seek the mind of God as David had done.

#### Discussion points:

- a. *Have I received a clear sight [revelation] from the Lord and see His truth clearly? If not, what must I do to gain the good sight?*
- b. *Let us discuss the spiritual meaning the Lord assigns to this parable –that is the significance of eye to our body.*
- c. *What did the Lord mean by the “beams” in our eyes? Share experiences of how my biases blinded me from seeing another person as God sees him/her.*

### 2. A tree and its fruit – Our hearts and the fruits

*“Each tree is recognized by its own fruit [v. 44].”*

*“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart [v. 45].”*

- a. These verses speak of the function of a person’s heart, where either good things or bad things are stored. A person’s thoughts originate from the heart, formed in the mind and are expressed outwardly through the mouth or in writing. *“For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of [v. 45].”*

- The Lord taught clearly of this process: heart → mind → verbal expressions.
- b. How are good or bad things stored in a person's heart? The Scripture speaks about this as follows:
- God gives good things such as gladness, joy, wisdom, faith and heavenly visions to a person's heart who trusts in Him and meditates on His precepts daily.
    - o *I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. [Ps. 16:7]*
    - o *Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure [Ps. 16:9]*
    - o *The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. [Ps. 19:8]*
  - But, an evil person does not know this channel of God's blessings. Therefore, the evil things out of his depraved human nature, the fleshly desires and the vain currents of this world fill his heart and mind, take roots and multiply.
    - o *Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with malice. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongues they tell lies. [Ps. 5:9]*
    - o *He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord. [Ps. 10:3]*
    - o *Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. [Ps. 12:2]*
    - o *They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance. [Ps. 17:10]*
- c. How do we come to have clean hearts?
- Before the Lord God can bless our hearts with His good things, a transformation of heart must occur through repentance and admission of faith in Jesus Christ.
  - By the blood of the cross, Jesus Christ not only opened the inner curtain into the Most Holy place of God's presence, obviating the OT priesthood, but also cleansed our "conscience," that is the inner part of our heart, from the guilt of sins of our past life. This cleansing effect occurs through admission of our faith in Jesus and through baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:
    - o *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [Heb. 10: 19-22]*
- d. How do we nurture the growth of the good things of God in our hearts?
- Set aside a time daily to commune with God through reading the Scripture, prayer and meditation:
    - o *But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither [Ps. 1: 2-3]*
    - o *I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search. [Ps. 77:6]*
    - o *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. [Phil. 4:18]*

**Discussion points:**

- a. *How much quality time [QT] do you spend with God in a day, or per week? What happens to your heart when you spend time in reading, prayer or meditation?*
- b. *Let us discuss the relationship between our heart's condition and what comes out of our mouths.*