

## Our Daily Bible – Weekly Lesson

### Spiritual Blindness and Hypocrisy

*Read Luke 6:39–45*

Jesus warns about the dangers of spiritual blindness, using the illustration of the blind leading the blind. If someone who lacks understanding tries to guide another, both will fall into a pit. This applies not only to religious leaders but to anyone who assumes the role of a teacher or guide without first being grounded in God's truth. Many people follow others without discerning whether they are being led correctly, but Jesus makes it clear that a misguided teacher will only lead their followers into trouble. This is why it is crucial to seek out godly wisdom rather than relying on human reasoning alone.

a) Why is it important to be spiritually grounded before attempting to guide or teach others?

b) How can we discern whether a teacher or leader is truly grounded in God's truth?

Jesus taught that a disciple is not above his teacher, but when fully trained, he will be like his teacher. This means that those who learn from unwise or ungodly teachers will inevitably take on their faults and misunderstandings. Conversely, those who learn from righteous and wise teachers will grow into people of wisdom and integrity. This challenges believers to carefully choose their influences. If we want to be wise, we must seek instruction from those who truly know and live by God's word, rather than following those who lack spiritual insight.

a) How does the choice of a teacher or mentor impact a disciple's spiritual growth and understanding?

b) What qualities should we look for in a teacher to ensure they are truly living by God's word?

A key theme in this passage is humility. Jesus asks why someone would focus on the speck in their brother's eye while ignoring the beam in their own. This is a striking image—someone with a massive log obstructing their vision trying to correct a minor flaw in another. It is easy to see faults in others while being blind to our own, but Jesus calls for self-examination before offering correction. If we want to help others grow spiritually, we must first make sure we are living in accordance with God's will.

a) Why is self-examination important before correcting others?

b) How does humility help us address our own faults before focusing on the flaws of others?

Hypocrisy is a major problem that Jesus repeatedly condemns throughout His ministry. Those who judge others while ignoring their own sin are not only deceiving themselves but also harming the body of Christ. Hypocrites may outwardly appear righteous, but their actions ultimately reveal the true condition of their hearts. When someone corrects others harshly while failing to acknowledge their own sins, they damage relationships and push people further from the truth rather than drawing them closer to God.

a) How does hypocrisy harm both the individual and the body of Christ?

b) What steps can we take to ensure that our actions align with the righteousness we profess?

Jesus uses the analogy of a tree and its fruit to illustrate how a person's character is revealed through their actions. A good tree produces good fruit, while a bad tree produces bad fruit. This means that our behavior, speech, and treatment of others reflect what is truly within us. A person who is filled with godliness and wisdom will naturally display love, patience, and righteousness, while a person who harbors evil in their heart will inevitably produce corruption. No one can consistently hide what is inside them—eventually, their true nature will be made known.

a) How does the analogy of a tree and its fruit help us understand the connection between our character and our actions?

b) What are some practical ways to cultivate godliness and wisdom so that we produce good fruit in our lives?

This passage also shows the importance of guarding our hearts. What we allow to dwell in our minds and souls will ultimately shape our words and actions. If we fill our hearts with anger, greed, or pride, these will be evident in the way we treat others. But if we immerse ourselves in Jehovah's truth, seek His righteousness, and cultivate humility, our lives will reflect His goodness. Proverbs 4:23 echoes this idea: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life."

a) Why is it important to guard our hearts, and how does it affect our words and actions?

b) What are some practical ways to fill our hearts with Jehovah's truth and righteousness?

Transformation must begin internally. Many people try to change their outward behavior without addressing the deeper issues of the heart. However, real change starts when we surrender our hearts to God and allow Him to renew our minds. Only then can we produce the kind of fruit that pleases Him. Trying to appear righteous while neglecting inner transformation is like decorating a diseased tree—the bad fruit will still appear in time.

a) Why is inward transformation more important than merely changing outward behavior?

b) How can we surrender our hearts to God and allow Him to renew our minds?

Another lesson from this passage is the power of words. Jesus states that “out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.” Our speech is a reflection of what we truly believe and value. If someone frequently speaks words of bitterness, deceit, or malice, it is a sign that their heart is not aligned with Jehovah’s truth. On the other hand, those who speak with kindness, wisdom, and integrity show that they have been shaped by God’s word. The way we speak to and about others is a strong indicator of our spiritual health.

a) How does our speech reveal the true condition of our hearts?

b) What steps can we take to ensure that our words reflect kindness, wisdom, and integrity?

Jesus calls His followers to live lives of integrity. We cannot simply put on a show of righteousness while allowing sin to fester in our hearts. Instead, we must seek genuine change by drawing near to God, studying His word, and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict and change us. When we do this, our lives will bear good fruit—not just in words but in deeds. Our actions should align with our faith, proving that we are truly followers of our Master Jesus Christ.

a) Why is it important for our actions to align with our faith rather than just appearing righteous outwardly?

b) How can we allow God’s Word and the Holy Spirit to bring genuine transformation in our lives?

We cannot fake godliness. True character is revealed over time through our actions and words. If we want to be people who honor God and lead others in the right direction, we must first ensure that we ourselves are walking in the light. Before seeking to correct others, we must humbly examine our own lives, remove any spiritual blindness, and allow the truth to shape us from the inside out. Only then can we be the kind of people who bear good fruit and bring glory to God.

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