

Jesus Teaches about Judging

Here's a **Full Breakdown** of **Matthew 7:1–5** (blue heart) and **Luke 6:37–42** (red heart), where Jesus teaches about judging others, hypocrisy, and self-examination.

PARALLEL PASSAGE CHART: Judging Others and Blind Hypocrisy

Element	Matthew 7:1–5	Luke 6:37–42
Opening Command	"Do not judge, so that you will not be judged."	"Do not judge, and you will not be judged."
Measure Principle	"With the measure you use, it will be measured to you."	Same phrase included
Hypocrisy Imagery	Speck vs. plank in the eye (brother's vs. your own)	Same imagery
Additional Sayings	Focuses on internal hypocrisy	Adds: "Can a blind man lead a blind man?" and "A disciple is not above his teacher"
Final Rebuke	"You hypocrite! First take the plank out of your own eye..."	Similar but adds responsibility to guide others after seeing clearly
Context	Sermon on the Mount	Sermon on the Plain

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Factor	Notes
Setting	 Matthew: Part of the <i>Sermon on the Mount</i> (Mt 5–7)  Luke: Part of the <i>Sermon on the Plain</i> (Lk 6:17–49)
Audience	Disciples and crowds—mixed group including Pharisees, Jews, sinners
Cultural Context	Rabbis often debated matters of law and judgment; Pharisees were notorious for hypocritical judgment (cf. Mt 23)
Structure	These passages begin Jesus' warning against <i>external righteousness without internal transformation</i>
Genre	Wisdom instruction with hyperbole, metaphor, and parallelism

KEY GREEK WORD STUDY

Greek Word	Translation	Meaning / Usage
κρίνω (krinō)	"to judge"	Can mean to condemn, to separate, or to evaluate. The context implies self-righteous condemnation , not moral discernment.
ὑποκριτής (hypokritēs)	"hypocrite"	Literally an actor; someone who pretends or hides their true self.
δοκός (dokos)	"plank, beam"	A large wooden beam—used humorously to contrast with "speck."
κάρφος (karphos)	"speck"	Tiny piece of straw, dust, or debris.

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THEOLOGICAL THEMES

Theme	Description
Judgment vs. Discernment	Jesus warns not against evaluation, but hypocritical or condemning judgment . Discernment is necessary (cf. Mt 7:6, 15).
Reciprocity	God's judgment on us mirrors our treatment of others (cf. Mt 6:12; Jas 2:13).
Hypocrisy	Jesus highlights how humans easily recognize flaws in others while ignoring deeper flaws in themselves.
Self-Examination	Change begins internally. Only when we address our own sin can we help others see clearly.
Leadership Responsibility (Luke)	The blind leading the blind (Luke) likely refers to unqualified, hypocritical leaders (cf. Mt 15:14).



MESSIANIC & KINGDOM IMPLICATIONS

- Jesus is **redefining righteousness** in His Kingdom: not external legalism but inner humility and mercy.
- His followers are to model **grace and humility**, not arrogant condemnation.
- True disciples reflect the character of their **Teacher (Jesus)** by showing mercy, just as He has (Luke 6:36–40).



CONNECTIONS TO OTHER PASSAGES

Passage	Link
James 2:12–13	Judgment without mercy will be shown to those who have not been merciful.
Romans 2:1–4	Paul rebukes those who judge others yet do the same things themselves.
Matthew 23	Seven woes to the Pharisees—example of religious hypocrisy.
John 8:1–11	Jesus tells the accusers of the woman caught in adultery: “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.”