



23: INVASION OF THE LOG PEOPLE (Luke 6:37-42)

In my daughter Madi's favorite episode of one of her favorite shows (which I'll admit, is a show I love watching with her!), one of my favorite comedic actors, Jack Black is a guest star. The show is the grandiloquent "Yo Gabba Gabba", which aside from "The Muppets" is, in my opinion, one of the best children's shows that has ever been on air.

Yo Gabba Gabba! was a children's musical television series created by Christian Jacobs and Scott Schultz. The series is about five costumed toys come-to-life and their friend DJ Lance Rock (Lance Robertson). It is co-produced by the Magic Store and Wildbrain Entertainment. Its first episode premiered on Nickelodeon on August 20, 2007, as a part of its Nick Jr. block. Its original run ended on November 12, 2015.

A single topic is addressed in each episode (such as "Adventure", "Friends", or "Dance") through songs and short storylines. Additionally, the show teaches children life and social skills, such as sharing and trying different foods. It also encourages viewers to move along with and dance with the characters in the program. The show is noted for its indie-culture guest stars and bands, and for drawing visual inspiration from 8-bit video games and H.R. Pufnstuf, among other television shows. Created by Christian Jacobs (lead singer of the Aquabats) and Scott Schultz, the show's learning process

has parents, older siblings, and younger children watch the show together rather than letting it act as a babysitter. The television program spawned a touring live stage show, several toys, and branded clothing.¹



In Madi's (and my) favorite episode titled "New Friends", Jack Black appeared as a stranger to the Yo Gabba world that flew in on a flying, talking motorbike which ran out of gas. Jack found himself in a strange world with talking trees, and of course the human size Yo Gabba characters, which looked like LSD-fueled monsters to him. By all appearances, Jack was rightfully frightened out of his mind.



However, the Yo Gabba characters, with their crazy friendly ways and lovely sing-along songs, quickly won Jack over as a friend, to the point where he even magically got outfitted with the orange spandex and fuzzy hatted outfit of DJ Lance Rock (the host of the show) himself! The episode ended with a tearful goodbye and departure after Jack gassed up his motorbike and took off into the clouds singing the words "goodbye".

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yo_Gabba_Gabba!



We, as human beings of planet earth, are naturally very judgmental creatures. Like Jack in Yo Gabba Land, we make fear-driven judgments of others based on their age, their appearance, their politics, their race, the color of their skin, their gender, the way they dress, the car they drive, the place they live, their lifestyle, their theology and more.

And Jesus cuts right through our crapola on the issue of being judgmental, and invites us into a discipleship friendship with Him that wins us over and transforms us! He wants to put his orange spandex pants and fuzzy hat of love on us and invite us into His family of love children!

The section of Luke 6:37–42 paralleled several traditions that also occurred in Mark and Matthew—some of these occurred in Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount. As in the preceding section, Jesus was calling for righteous behavior and emphasizing love, forgiveness, and generosity.²

Come on Lord Jesus **teach us!** Let’s dig into this passage!

37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:37-38)

² Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Lk 6:37–42). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

Again, it is our natural tendency to make fear-driven judgments about people based on their age, their appearance, their politics, their race, the color of their skin, their gender, the way they dress, the car they drive, the place they live, their lifestyle, their theology and more.

But Jesus calls us not to do so. In response to God's forgiveness of us, we are to offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us. As with His teaching in Luke 6:27–36, Jesus calls us to imitate God by displaying sacrificial love. See Matt 6:14–15.³

In imitation of God, the disciple should be slow to judge (v. 37). In the context of the preceding verses, we can see that love for one's enemy does not fix a view of them in stone.⁴

The most flexible and durable material in the world is **graphene**. Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a two-dimensional honeycomb lattice. It is incredibly thin, lightweight, and flexible, yet also extremely strong and durable. Graphene has many potential applications, including in electronics, aerospace, and material science. Its remarkable properties make it one of the most exciting materials in the field of nanotechnology.⁵

We need to be like **graphene** in our view on our enemies! There has to be a **soul flexibility**! Why? Because we never know when someone could change. Not everybody changes, but God can radically change people. We must believe this is true.

Let me give you an extreme example- do you know about Jeffrey Dahmer?

³ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Lk 6:37–42). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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⁵ <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-most-flexible-and-durable-material-in-the-world>



Jeffrey Lionel Dahmer (/ˈdɑːməɹ/; May 21, 1960 – November 28, 1994), also known as the Milwaukee Cannibal or the Milwaukee Monster, was an American serial killer and sex offender who killed and dismembered seventeen males between 1978 and 1991. Many of his later murders involved necrophilia, cannibalism, and the permanent preservation of body parts—typically all or part of the skeleton.

Although he was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD), schizotypal personality disorder (StPD), and a psychotic disorder, Dahmer was found to be legally sane at his trial. He was convicted of fifteen of the sixteen homicides he had committed in Wisconsin and was sentenced to fifteen terms of life imprisonment on February 17, 1992. Dahmer was later sentenced to a sixteenth term of life imprisonment for an additional homicide committed in Ohio in 1978.

On November 28, 1994, Dahmer was beaten to death by Christopher Scarver, a fellow inmate at the Columbia Correctional Institution in Portage, Wisconsin.⁶

However, before Dahmer's murder, Curt Booth, a member of the Crescent Church of Christ in Oklahoma, played a huge role in leading Dahmer into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeffrey_Dahmer

“I know Jeffrey was ready to die,” Booth commented after Dahmer was murdered by another inmate in prison. “Today, all the angels in heaven are rejoicing because Jeffrey has come home.”

Booth said he had no doubt about the sincerity of Dahmer’s conversion.

“On the great resurrection day, I’m expecting to see him right along there with Abraham, David, Isaac, James, John and all the saints that have lived right up to the modern day,” Booth said.

Booth usually ministered to inmates at prisons closer to home. But in April 1994, he caught a glimpse of Dahmer on television. Dahmer mentioned that he wished he could “find a little peace,” Booth said.

The Oklahoma church member sensed what he considered the hurt in Dahmer’s voice and eyes. Booth said he thought: “I know somebody who can give you that peace. His name is Jesus Christ.”

Booth sent Dahmer a Bible correspondence course teaching the steps to salvation. Dahmer mailed the answers back and thanked Booth for the course.

“But I still have one problem,” Dahmer wrote. “This prison does not have a baptismal tank and Mr. Burkum the prison chaplain is not sure if he can find someone to bring a tank in and baptize me? I’ve taken all the other steps.”

Booth contacted Roy Ratcliff, minister of the Madison Church of Christ in Wisconsin. Ratcliff set up weekly Bible lessons with Dahmer and baptized him on May 10, 1994. Ratcliff later shared that Dahmer told him he had been fearful of the minister’s visit.

“He dreaded that I might say, ‘No, you’re too evil. You’re too sinful. I can’t baptize someone like you,’” Ratcliff said.

Booth said he contacted other preachers besides Ratcliff, “but they were kind of scared to go in.”⁷

Now if we are really to be like Holy Spirit **graphene** in our posture on judging, condemning and forgiving people, then we need to see how Jesus can save a man like Jeffrey Dahmer, a true, maybe far more extreme example, of a “thief on a cross”.

⁷ <https://christianchronicle.org/did-jailhouse-religion-save-jeffrey-dahmer/>

And if Jesus can save the thief on the cross and Jeffrey Dahmer, can he not change the wicked, the selfish, the greedy, the drug addicted, the raging, the angry, the sex addicted, the thieves, the alcoholic, the unforgiving, the self-righteous, the murderous, the rapist, the racist, the arrogant, and more?

We are not like *graphene*, but far more like *diamonds* when it comes to our posture on judging, condemning and forgiving people, and not in the positive sense! We are 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 in reverse! We are impatient, unkind, envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, self-seeking, irritable, quick to keep and pile up a record of wrongs. We find entertainment in the unrighteousness of others and ignore the truth. We bear very little, barely believe, cast off hope, and won't endure anything unless it benefits us. We are stubborn and unmoving.

But if Jesus can flip Saul of Tarsus into the Apostle Paul, and Dahmer the Milwaukee monster into a believer, He can flip anybody.

So keep your boundaries, keep your wits, stay on your toes, and don't let anybody manipulate or take advantage of you.

But also, much like Steve Perry of Journey "Don't Stop Believin'!" Don't stop believin' that God can do a miracle in someone's life and radically change them! Take it from an ex agnostic, ex drug dealer, porn addict, criminal, almost high school dropout, college dropout who is now a pastor, husband of twenty years, DoorDasher ;), and father of three daughters. God can change people!

Fellow Christians- let's stop acting like we're better than everybody! Let's focus more on letting God change us than judging every one that we think we're better than!

Moreover, the measure we use toward others is the measure God will use toward us. If we do not judge; he will not judge us. If we do not condemn; he will not condemn us. If we give; he will give to us in "good measure." The picture of the good measure pressed down draws on what happened in the ancient marketplace, where a seller placed grain in a container. Then he shook the container to get the grain to level out so that he could put more grain in the measure. That is how God measures for the generous and those who give. In fact, he gives so that the cup runs over. This abundant measure God pours into the "lap" or fold of one's ancient garment. God honors a compassionate spirit. Jesus reveals the contrast to this attitude in the Pharisee of Luke 18:11 - 14, whose pride led him to judge others just by looking.⁸

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What's the greatest gift that God can measure back to us? His love! If we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by His love, and allow the Holy Spirit to abide in us and pour out love on others, then our experience of His love will turn diamonds into graphene, it will overwhelm our impatience, unkindness, enviousness, boastfulness, arrogance, rudeness, selfishness, irritability. It will blow up our collection of a record of wrongs. It will make us mourn the unrighteousness of others and celebrate the truth. It will give us the capacity to bear much, believe much, hope much, and endure much even when it doesn't benefit us. This will be 1 Cor. 13:4-7 in **forward motion** instead of **reverse**- the right way!

Jesus continued;

39 He also told them a parable: "Can the blind guide the blind? Won't they both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:39-40)

Jesus, in effect, was saying that judgemental people and leaders would produce judgemental people and disciples, condemning people and leaders would produce condemning people and disciples, unforgiving people and leaders would produce unforgiving people and disciples, and stingy people and leaders would produce stingy people and disciples.

By the way, just to level the playing field, someone can be a judgemental democrat, a judgemental republican, condemning democrat, a condemning republican, an unforgiving democrat, an unforgiving republican, a stingy democrat or a stingy republican. Sin and foolishness don't have taste in people, they're happy to make their home in anybody no matter what their political convictions are!

Jesus was warning us as disciples to pay attention to which teachers we follow. A blind leader would only lead someone into a pit. The question, "Can a blind man lead a blind man?" expected a negative answer in the Greek. The second question, "Would they not both fall into the pit?" expected a yes answer. Jesus' point was that the disciple is like the teacher, so if the teacher was blind, the student would be blind too. Blindness is a common figure for spiritual blindness (Ps. 25:5; 86:11; 119:35); thus, Jesus was warning here about religious leadership. One should follow the right teacher and not apply too much authority to one's self. In the context of this discourse, only one such teacher existed — Jesus. We as disciples should not try to go beyond him.⁹

⁹ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

How many well meaning people who really wanted to figure out who Jesus was got “led into a pit” under the leadership of a certain Seattle megachurch pastor in the 2000’s and 2010’s that “rose and fell”? On top of that, how many others have been “led into a pit” by celebrity pastors who cared more about themselves than the people under their care?

How many well meaning people who really wanted to figure out who Jesus have gotten “led into a pit” under the leadership of legalistic Christian leaders emphasizing law and rules while deleting the grace and forgiveness of Jesus?

How many well meaning people who really wanted to figure out who Jesus was have been “led into a pit”? How many have been led away from biblical orthodoxy and truth because of the philosophical meanderings of scholars and pastors who claim to love Christ and the Bible but distort the truths of the Bible?

We don’t want to follow non-Christ-centered leaders who claim to be centered in Christ. We’ll end up in a pit too.

This is on me- I don’t want to lead any of you into a pit. As a pastor at Streetlight Community Church I pray and hope that you’ll all flourish in your relationship with Jesus. You don’t have to love everything about me, but I sure want you to love everything about Him!

And why? Because, I, who proclaim to be a disciple of Jesus, am not above my teacher. Jesus implied that unqualified (or still apprenticing) leaders are unfit to lead God’s people since they cannot yet fully understand God’s purposes. Jesus’ reference to blindness likely referred to living out of self-interest rather than love for others (Luke 6:37–38). Those who lead God’s people must embody and display His sacrificial love.¹⁰

One mistake I’ve made as pastor at Streetlight is to be so quick to empower people and get them using their gifts. And I haven’t taken the time to help people train as disciples of Jesus, grow, heal, come to grips with their past and their stories, and then gradually move into their genuine calling. I’m sorry for that. I desire people now to truly grow and flourish, and for fully developed disciples of Jesus to lead the way in our Church community, while those who need healing and growth get poured into.

And why? Because *everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher*. We want a culture where people have Christ just exploding inside of them and out of their lives. This is the best thing we could possibly desire, and we will move towards it by faith. Oh

¹⁰ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

Jesus, please fully train those of us who make up the core of our community so we can help others to fully encounter You!

Discipleship means following someone who knows the way; so that one becomes like a guide. These sayings remind us of John's presentation of Jesus as the way, or the descriptions of Jesus in Hebrews as the 'new and living way' (Heb 10:20). By following Jesus, the disciples are acknowledging that he is no blind guide but knows the way.¹¹ Let's follow Jesus together!

And Jesus goes on in Luke 6 to give us practical advice on how to curb our own distorted natures.

41 "Why do you look at the splinter in your brother's eye, but don't notice the beam of wood in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye,' when you yourself don't see the beam of wood in your eye? Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the splinter in your brother's eye. (Luke 6:41-42)

This is Jesus' full frontal attack on our critical spirits. We're all like the religious leaders of His day were. We are quickly and hypocritically aware of little faults in others but ignore the logs in our own eyes. According to Jesus, it takes nerve to talk to a fellow human being about his or her little faults while pretending we have none of our own. Jesus does not absolve us of community accountability, however. The way to deal with it is by paying attention to our own faults first and dealing fully with them before turning our attention to the treatment of the little faults of others (cf. Gal. 6:1 - 5).¹²

We must rid ourselves of a sin before we can help a brother or sister with that sin (vv. 41–42). And often our own sin is greater than the one we criticize in someone else—a plank compared with a speck of sawdust. The point is that one cannot help someone else become righteous if they are not righteous themselves. To seek to do so is to be a hypocrite.¹³

The problem that Jesus is identifying here is that we simply don't see our own inconsistencies. We, as human beings, are blind to our own faults. We're all hypocrites in this way. This teaching helps us to not lie to ourselves as we're inevitably prone to do.

¹¹ Africa Bible Commentary, Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor. Copyright © 2006, 2010, and 2022 by ABC Editorial Board.

¹² NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

¹³ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

Also, the principle is here that we need to be repentantly, humbly moving towards genuine righteousness in Christ if we want Him to use us to move others towards the same.

Have you ever been in the orbit of someone who genuinely believes everyone around them is in the wrong and they are constantly in the right? It's not a pleasant experience to dwell with such an individual. In fact, it would lead most to need a large dose of ibuprofen.

I used to teach kids guitar. Part of the reason why I did is because I was passionate about playing guitar myself. As a result, at peak times I had as many as twenty to thirty students a week at once.

I didn't try and teach these students guitar because I wished that I knew guitar, and yet secretly couldn't play it. That wouldn't make any sense at all. In fact, I loved guitar and worked hard for many years to learn to play it well. I wanted to pass along what I knew to these students. When they wanted to learn things that were beyond my ability, I would attempt to learn new things with them, or point them to resources. There were a few students I had that surpassed me and I plugged them in with guitar teachers I knew who were stronger players and teachers than I was.

We aren't going to produce other disciples of Jesus if we're not disciples ourselves! When no one else is looking, are we actually living for Jesus? Discipleship is **caught** not **taught**! If we are passionate about Jesus Christ, it's a naturally contagious thing to others. However, passion for Jesus is repellent to unrepentant hypocrites. Those who are genuinely hungry to know about Christ, and those who are also in love with Christ, catch the contagion of genuine discipleship in others!

What if we, as followers of Christ, weren't only inwardly and outwardly radiating the forgiveness, love, and goodness of Him, but we were also, simultaneously far more concerned with our own flaws than we were with the flaws of others? Wow, what a community would that be to be a part of! It would be life giving, and draw many into the necessary self reflection required in order to truly grow as disciples of Jesus.

That's exactly what Jesus was getting at! We all need to be "log people", not "speck removers"! The "speck removers" become painfully obvious in a Church community of "log people". People aware of the logs in their eyes are light hearted, quick to laugh at themselves, self-aware, humble, fun, loving, and kind. Because they're tethered to Christ they're quick to poke fun at themselves and slower to point the finger at others!

When a Church Community is full of “log people”, visitors who join in on a Sunday, or interact with them in any other setting notice! People who don’t follow Jesus catch a flavor of humility, love and self-awareness and it puts them at ease! Log people have a kindness and calmness about them. They’re easy going. They don’t display constantly offended and irritated body language and spout critical words. They know they’re forgiven and wildly loved by the Son of God, and they’ve fully invited Him into their hearts and minds to tenderly scrutinize and gradually clean out every bit of them that doesn’t resemble Jesus.

Jesus wants to make us into log people! He’ll do it, because He didn’t ever need to remove one dang log from His eye! He always saw clearly to remove specks from the eyes of others, to heal them, to call them out, to forgive them, to draw them into relationship with Him. Wanna know why? His Father God made the One who did not know sin, Jesus, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God! (2 Cor. 5:21)