

Luke 6:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Analysis

Can blind lead blind shall they not both fall into ditch. Rhetorical question expects no. Blind taphlos spiritually blind. Lead hodēgein guide. Both amphoterōi leader follower. Fall pesountai stumble. Ditch bothynon pit. Blind leading blind results in disaster. Spiritually blind teachers lead followers to ruin. Pharisees were blind guides (Matt 15:14). Need teachers who see spiritual truth. Reformed theology emphasizes qualified eldership. Not all can teach. Must be spiritually mature grounded in truth.

Historical Context

Context Jesus teaching about judging others judging self first (v. 41-42). Blind leaders Pharisees hypocrites. See speck in others eye miss log in own. Must have spiritual sight to lead others. Teaching office requires maturity knowledge humility. Paul warns against novices in leadership (1 Tim 3:6). Early church recognized qualified elders overseers. Medieval church sometimes elevated based on politics not qualification. Reformation recovered biblical eldership qualified shepherds. Modern church celebrity pastors sometimes unqualified. Need return to biblical qualifications for leadership.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does blind leading blind teach about necessity of qualified mature spiritual leadership?
2. How can church ensure leaders are spiritually mature not merely popular or charismatic?

Interlinear Text

Εἶπεν	δὲ	παραβολὴν	αὐτοῖς·	Μήτι	δύναται	τυφλὸν
he spake	And	a parable	unto them	G3385	Can	the blind
G2036	G1161	G3850	G846		G1410	G5185
τυφλὸν	ὀδηγεῖν	οὐχὶ	ἀμφότεροι	εἰς	βόθυνον	πεσοῦνται
the blind	lead	not	both	into	the ditch	fall
G5185	G3594	G3780	G297	G1519	G999	G4098

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

2 Timothy 3:13 (Parallel theme): But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Isaiah 56:10 (Parallel theme): His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Isaiah 9:16 (Parallel theme): For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

