

### **Luke 6:46-49 NKJV**

*46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

Prayer:

You have heard of the Sermon on the Mount. Welcome to the Sermon on the Plain. Jesus' teaching here parallels Matthew's Sermon on the Mount [recorded in Matthew 5-7] in general structure, sequence, and thought. However, in line with one of the Gospel of Luke's primary purposes of presenting Jesus as not only the Jewish Deliverer but the Savior to the entire world, Luke omits much material of particular interest to the Jews.

So, instead of the 3 chapter long Sermon on the Mount we have a ½ chapter Sermon on the Plain.

The title of this morning's message is '**Three Important Questions**'

Jesus has just shared a number of deep and valuable truths with this mass of humanity gathered around Him to be touched:

- The Beatitudes: blessings and woes
- Love Your Enemies
- Do Not Judge
- A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

It is important to take notice who it is Jesus is speaking directly to as He teaches on the plain: verse 20 '**Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples and said...**'

Jesus was speaking to the disciples. Remember, the crowd, the multitude, and His disciples had gathered there to hear and be healed. And they all were healed as power went out from Him and touched them. Now it was time for them to hear and Jesus was ready to teach.

The word 'disciple' means one that is taught, a learner, a pupil.

Our first important question:

## **Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?**

I didn't ask if you go to church, or if you are a Christian, or if you are a member. Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? Are you a learner, a pupil, a student of Jesus?

The great commission in Matthew 28 commands the church to '*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*' Amen.

The Hebrew word for disciple is talmid. This word stresses the relationship between rabbi (teacher or master) and disciple (student). A talmid of Jesus' day would give up his entire life in order to be with his teacher. ...

Jesus was speaking to the taught ones, those who wouldn't be satisfied only to receive a healing touch for their body but teaching for their spirit! Learners, followers, students.

Those who wouldn't be satisfied with simply hearing what He had to say and calling Him 'Lord' but receiving what He had to say, allowing it to impact their life, and becoming 'doers' of His most holy Word!

The Great Commission doesn't instruct us to 'go therefore and make believers' but specifically call us make disciples. There is a difference.

This is one of the greatest challenges of the modern day church especially in the culture in which we live in today.

It is common practice to receive new believers joyfully into the church and then allow them to languish without properly assisting them in their growth through discipleship and into maturity as disciples.

This is one of the areas we have been focusing time and energy on as we look to the next few months and into autumn @ Christ United.

[Plug for this September's renewed emphasis on foundation classes and small groups to provide opportunity for increased discipleship].

\*I think my two favorite times of the day in grade school were recess and lunch. In recess I got to run and play dodge-ball; and of course at lunch I got to eat and talk with my friends, and if I ate really fast I could go back outside and play more dodge-ball.

However school isn't all about recess and lunch. And being a disciple of Jesus isn't all about being touched by Him [great value] but it's also about being taught by Him. So Jesus teaches....

- The Beatitudes: blessings and woes
- Love Your Enemies
- Do Not Judge
- A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

I find it interesting that Jesus immediately begins to prod them in such a manner as this, when He goes right after the heart of the matter and asks in verse 46

*"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"*

Jesus knows us well don't you think? He knows us and He loves us in spite of our selves!

### **John 2:23-25**

*23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.*

*'Many believed when they saw the signs He did' but Jesus held back a bit because 'He knew all men and what was in man.'*

*It might be kind of like 'You all like recess and lunch time don't you? Well, it's time to get down to some serious business as well!'*

*So Jesus says 'don't just give me lip service and call me master and not learn and apply what I am teaching you. Don't just be content to be touched; be taught as well. And don't be content to be taught but then follow through with what I have shared with you!'*

*'You call me Master. Am I really? Are you even my disciple?'*

What are some common characteristics of a disciple? An article from Campus Crusade for Christ sees these characteristics:

Disciples are those with a love for God, their neighbor and Christian brother, and show this love in deeds. They put Jesus first in everything and count the cost before they jump in. They are willing to wait on pleasure and comfort, to suffer now for the reward waiting them. They serve those whom they lead. They seek other's good before their own. They work out of gratitude and love and are zealous to do good deeds. A disciple of Jesus seeks to impart what he has learned to others, to fulfill the ministry Christ has given to them. Disciples are ready to receive whatever Jesus has to offer — His forgiveness, love, direction and commandments — and to pay the price to get it.

Does that sound like you? I asked you earlier if you were a disciple of Jesus Christ. The second important question of the day:

## **Is Jesus Christ Lord of your life?**

I don't want us to get caught up in our 'Christian jargon' here. This isn't simply a word study on disciple and lord; it is a heart study on where we are in our relationship with Jesus.

When Jesus said 'you call me Lord' He used the Greek word ***kurios*** which means *he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, the possessor and disposer of a thing; the owner; one who has control of the person, the sovereign, prince, chief, a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master.*

It's a pretty good question to ask! Is Jesus Christ Lord of your life? Remember, Jesus knows!

What I am asking is today is, according to the biblical definition of Lord

- Do you belong to Jesus?
- Does Jesus have the power of deciding in your life?
- Is Jesus your master and the possessor and disposer of your life?
- Does He have control of you?
- Is Jesus your sovereign prince and chief?
- Do you as a servant have respect and reverence to Jesus as your master?

This is what Jesus came and died for. Jesus gave His life for you and He asks that you give your life to Him including doing what He says!

Jesus didn't just come to be a part of our life, occupying a little space reserved for a convenient moment and time. He is our life. He is our Lord!

That is why He said in verse 47 *'Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them...'*

He not only wants us to come to Him and to hear Him but to do what He says; to obey!

When He taught you are to 'love your enemies' He meant to love your enemies, literally. Do it. Practice it. Don't just hear it, do it!

When He taught 'do not judge one another' He meant for you to not judge one another, literally. Don't do it. Practice not doing it. Don't just hear it, do it!

Be a disciple. Let Him be Lord!

And when you get things wrong and go ahead and hate your enemy and judge one another, practice repentance and forgiveness! Do it!

If you not only hear but do *'I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.'*

See, storms will come regardless. Jesus warned us about that.

### **John 16:32-33 NKJV**

*32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

Notice in the comparison here Jesus mentions the storms coming on the obedient and the disobedient.

Have things been kind of stormy lately? Are you doing as He has asked of you? Not only in the 'love your enemies' and 'do not judge' arena which is good.

What about being obedient to His specific promptings, plans and purposes for your life?

**Question: what is it God has spoken to you in times past, what have you heard Him say to you, that you're not doing?**

When the prophet Jonah found himself in the midst of a terrible tempest and the ship was preparing to go down he couldn't very well proclaim 'well, this storm is just a season I am going through, and it will pass on sometime soon.' Sure, he could have. We do.

However he realized the storm wasn't a test of his obedience it was a result of his disobedience. The storm didn't come to see if he was going to obey; the storm came because he was walking in blatant disregard and disobedience to what God has asked of him.

Oh my gosh! So now I will ask the third important question. We have already been talking about it:

**Are you walking in obedience to God?**

Let's ask this question of our self in another way: am I living in direct disobedience to God in any area of my life? Am I hearing what he is saying and doing something else? Am I ignoring what He is saying completely?

Sometimes this isn't an intentional but a gradual shift; you wake up one day and find your zip code has changed w/o even realizing it.

EX: my position at Covenant Hospice

Other times it is just a refusal to do what God asks or to try and do it your own way; a monumental compromise!

### **1 Samuel 15 Saul and Agag**

God's instruction: verse 3

Saul's action: verse 9

Saul's position: verse 13-15

God's correction: verse 19

*So, 'why do we call Him 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which He says?'*

**Philippians 4:9 NKJV**

*'The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.'*

Are you a disciple?

Is He your Lord?

Are you obedient?