

Luke 6:46-49

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? 47 I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. 48 That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house."

What Jesus teaches in this chapter is the Christian moral code. Your moral code is the guideline that you follow in life that steers your life according to your knowledge of right and wrong. It is based on the values of the individual within the realm of the culture. Your moral code determines your attitudes, character, and behavior. People with a good moral code have good behavior, good attitudes, and do good things for other people. Jesus teaches us that our moral code as his followers is different from what is commonly practiced in the world. Jesus came into God's world at a time when the people of God have turned away from the will of God. So, Jesus leads the people to consider and develop a moral code that is based on divine standards which run contrary to human standards. This is not a new moral code because it actually follows very closely to Old Testament standards. That's because a lot of what Jesus teaches was already presented to the people in the Old Testament. The teaching of Jesus and the Old Testament standards are both God's standards. So, there is a lot of parallelism between the teaching of Jesus and the Old Testament. Jesus is not something new, different, and radical. He is not presenting a new way of thinking or behaving. Jesus is presenting God's way to the people which was already written in the scriptures but mostly neglected by the religious establishment. The greatest danger that Jesus was confronted with was a religious establishment that followed its own doctrine instead of the God's doctrine. What Jesus was actually doing is getting people back on track to obedience of the word of God. Therefore, Jesus is an agent of reformation.

Today's Scripture is the final lesson from the Sermon on the Plain. When you conclude a lesson, you typically highlight the major point, or main theme, of the lesson. Jesus sums up his sermon with a call for action. He shows us that there are two types of followers and compares them to building foundations. One foundation is those that do what Jesus says to do. They study what Jesus said and they study what Jesus did. Their lives are centered on Jesus. They not only listen to the word of Jesus but they also take action and do what Jesus says to do. The other foundation is one of hypocrisy; they talk the talk but do not walk the walk. They claim to be followers of Jesus but do not take action to do what Jesus teaches us to do. In concluding his sermon, Jesus questions those that do not obey his word.

It is important for us to understand that Jesus is not addressing a contrast between good and evil; Jesus is addressing a contrast between believers - those that call him Lord. The contrast is between those that do what he teaches vs. those that call him Lord and do not do what he teaches. In Luke chapter six Jesus provides a very specific moral code and

instructs us to listen, learn, follow, and do what he teaches. It is a matter of discipleship. Jesus demands that the disciples be like their master, hear his call, and act upon it.

The call from Jesus is a call to discipleship. It is much more than passive belief. This Scripture provides an opportunity for the individual to do self analysis and ask “Do I really and truly obey Jesus?” It is all about your character. This particular Scripture is not about what you believe; it applies to all of the believers, everyone that calls Jesus “Lord.” This Scripture is about what one does as a believer. It is a response to your faith. Words and deeds reveal character of the person as fruit reveals the nature of the tree. Jesus leads us beyond confession. As children of God we are to be productive, fruitful, and do the will of God. It is important to know and understand that our obedience and righteousness is not a means to salvation but a testimony to our faith. Jesus cautions us against danger. The danger of having a weak foundation is you lose everything. The benefit of having a strong foundation is that you are safe.

Your faith needs to be spiritually strong. You need to have strong faith and a solid foundation that is built on the word of God and follow through with action. Do what Jesus says to do. Do more than just give lip service. The choice is yours. You can hear the word and do nothing. But faith that is built on a weak foundation will not stand up against the weather. Jesus calls us into relationship and empowers us to live life of discipleship.