

**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."

Today we continue where we left off last week with Luke chapter 6. Jesus violated the Sabbath regulations because the Sabbath law and other regulations were theologically off center. The people added to the law of God rules and regulations that were restrictive and punitive. So, the human created doctrine is in contrast to the will of God. It is God's will to care for others and Jesus knew this. It is the same problem as it always has been - human will vs. God's will. The Bible clearly shows that the focus of God is on relationship. The Law of God is based on the ten commandments. Well, the ten commandments are based on relationship. The first four commandments are in regards to a relationship with God and the last six commandments are based on relationship with other people. So, the law of God is based on relationship.

The Scripture takes place during an awesome sermon by Jesus. Last week we learned that Jesus teaches some very hard lessons to follow: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you, give to everyone who begs from you, do to others as you would have them do to you. However they are not hard to follow if you have surrendered your life to Christ. That's because the spirit of the individual is focused on Jesus. When the character of the person is righteous then it is not hard to follow the tough lessons from Jesus. In today's Scripture Jesus teaches it is not enough to hear the word, you must also act upon it. We learn there is a benefit to acting upon the word and a consequence for not acting upon the word.

The contemporary lesson for us is in regards to how the teaching of Jesus applies to us. On the surface it is tempting to think that the lesson is based on the believer vs. the non-believer. But notice this, Jesus is teaching that the disparity exists between those who act on his word and those that do not act on his word. All of them hear the word. So, the contemporary lesson is within the realm of the congregation. The lesson is applicable to all of the people. Everyone present hears the word. It is a matter of your response to the word. This is one of many Bible lessons that teaches us that acting on faith is required. Notice first of all Jesus poses the question. Why do you call me Lord and not follow me? Why do you confess, why do you say you believe in Jesus, why do you call yourself a Christian, but do not follow the word? Why even bother to call me Lord and not love your enemies? Why do you call me Lord if you cannot bring yourself to do good to those who hate you? Why call me Lord and not bless those who curse you, or pray for those who abuse you, or give to everyone who begs from you? If you are going to call me Lord then you have to do to others as you would have them do to you. According to the Bible it is mandatory to follow Jesus teachings. It is not something that you can ignore; it is not something that you can pick and choose. Believing in Jesus requires commitment and discipleship. Disciples are to become like their master. The highest priority, number one thing to do in life is to follow the teachings of Jesus. Disciples are one with Christ.

Many years ago I read a story about an irate neighbor that called and fussed at a Christian. She delivered this violent tirade about how the Christian's five year old daughter destroyed her flowers, broke a window, and other offenses. The Christian asked her to come over and talk. The neighbor arrived and a table was set for coffee and sweet rolls, she said "Oh, I'm sorry, you're having company." The Christian said "No, I thought we could talk over a cup of coffee." The Christian gave thanks for the food and asked for God's wisdom. When she opened her eyes, the visitor was crying and confessed "It's not your daughter, it's mine. I don't know why I lashed out at you. I just can't cope with my children anymore." When the neighbor made this admission the Christian started sharing Christ with her. In time the neighbor and her family became believers. It is about the character of the person. The spirit filled person responds positively and extends loving care. You can give your testimony. You can show others how you are different. You can be the calm presence in the storms of life. You can tell others about your relationship with Lord.

You have a solid spiritual foundation that is based on the lessons from Jesus, hearing his lessons and following his teachings. Word and deed. The lessons from Jesus apply to all of us. Accept him and his teachings and call him Lord. Receive him in your heart. Pledge a changed life that is devoted to following Jesus and respond to his teachings. Do the things that Jesus teaches you to do.