

DIGGING DEEPER

LUKE 6:46-49

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

July 24, 2016

Introduction

Life is filled with confrontations of all types. Many confrontations serve as a training ground to help us to grow. While others are destructive in nature. Many times a confrontation requires the hearer to make a decision. We are under a spotlight of the question and there is no room to hide, after all it is a confrontation. Merriam-Webster defines confrontation as:

“a situation in which people, groups, etc. fight, oppose or challenge each other in an angry way...a clashing of forces or ideas (conflict).”

Jesus teaches the multitude in what is called the “Sermon on the Plain”, Luke 6:17-49.

Jesus teaches this same story on the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 7:21-27, Jesus describes these two men as being either a “wise man” or a “foolish man.”

If you have a “red letter” Bible, you will find this section all in red type. These are the words of the Son of God. It is in this sermon that we find Jesus confronting the crowd with a very difficult question:

Hard Question

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

In all honesty, this is a very sobering question. I do not like to be confronted with my errors. In this last section of the Sermon on the Plain, Christ finishes with this sobering and very powerful confrontation.

The Jewish manner of using a word twice is to draw attention to what is being said.

Lord – “of persons, *having power or authority over, lord or master*”¹

The Sermon on the Plain has come to a conclusion. In His teaching, Jesus restated the Beatitudes, pronounced “woes”, took the “golden rule” to a whole new level and taught how judging others is not wise. Jesus finishes with the insight of following the Words of Christ.

Wherever Jesus spoke you could find at least three types of people: those that have wholly accepted His teachings and have become true disciples. The second type are those that hear His teaching and agree

¹ Liddell, H. G. (1996). *A lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English lexicon* (p. 458). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

in principle but do not put His teaching into their lifestyle, they are observers or onlookers which nod their heads in approvement and may even say “Amen.” The third type of hearer are those that reject everything Christ has to say, such as many of the scribes, Pharisee’s and Sadducees.

The multitude would include a group of would be “disciples” of Jesus who, according to John 6:66 associated themselves with Jesus, but went back to their old way of life and “walked no more with him.”

It is clear from these verses that Jesus is now speaking to the second type of hearer...the onlookers. If a reporter was in the crowd and asked the onlookers what they believed, they would most likely say that they were followers of Yeshua, the Rabbi from Nazareth.

This is the conclusion of the Sermon. This is the climax of all the teaching, “*Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*” Jesus confronted His hearers, “Your confession is meaningless unless it is followed by obedience.

A Call for Decisive Action

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

Whosoever is found 13 times in the King James Version of the Bible. When I hear the word, “whosoever”, it reminds me of that old hymn, “Whosoever Meaneth Me.” The chorus goes:

“Whosoever” surely meaneth me,
Surely meaneth me, O surely meaneth me;
“Whosoever” surely meaneth me,
“Whosoever” meaneth me.,

Or

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

I have learned that I am a “whosoever.”

There are three steps in this verse for the believer.

...*cometh to me* – every person, every whosoever will make a decision concerning Christ. They will either hear His words and accept His message or they will hear His words and reject His message. They will either be drawn to the Gospel message or they will be repulsed. The first step is “coming to Jesus”.

...*and heareth my sayings* – It is one thing to hear the teachings of Jesus. Many did during the time of His ministry years. Multitudes upon multitudes gathered to hear this young Rabbi’s message. They followed Him everywhere He went. From town to town, hanging on all His teachings and witnessing all of His miracles. His teachings were so different and so radical. His Words instilled a desire to hear more.

...*and doeth them* – this formula of coming, hearing and doing is very common within all religions. All religions of the world require obedience unto the tenets of their doctrine and practices. It was no different for the Jews. They are taught from early childhood to memorize scripture, to attend the required Feasts and to observe the Rabbi’s teachings. A Jewish man was known by how well he observed the Feasts and teachings of the Torah.

It is no different for those that would be followers of Jesus. While it is good to have great knowledge of a belief system, it means nothing if those beliefs are not put into everyday practice.

Jesus Gives Two Examples; Obedience and Disobedience

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Those that “hear and do are wise” (v. 48)

Jesus gives a relationship message to the crowd: “come to me, hear my words, do my words.”

Those that fall into this category are described as:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Jesus was the son of a carpenter. I am sure that he hung around His father enough to understand how important the precision of joints were in the construction of a table or chair.

He now engages His audience with things they could all clearly understand. Houses were not made by “track” developers as they are today. The family houses were made by each household. As they listened to Jesus you can almost see their heads bobbing in agreement. If you’re going to have a house stand for years to come, you have to “dig deep” in order to have a firm foundation. There are no short-cuts. It is back-breaking work. The foundation must be set right, because the storms are going to come. Torrential rains, flooding, and earth quakes will affect every house. However, a home that the builder dug deep to lay a foundation will have little fear when the rains and floods come. The house will stand because it is built upon a rock.

Those that “hear and don’t do are foolish” (v. 49)

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Those in the crowd that day could envision the results of flimsy construction. As the rains came, the house would leak water and it would run along the sides of the house, eroding inch by inch until the house falls in shambles.

Jesus was closing His sermon with these words. They must be important, right? If a person comes to Jesus, hears His teaching and is obedient in following them, he is likened to the man who built his house on a firm foundation and the storms could not break down what had been built.

It is much the same way for Christians. If we come to Christ, we read our bibles, attend Sunday school, worship services to hear the Word of God and then we incorporate His teachings into our daily lives, the “storms” of life will have very little effect on our belief system. There is also a storm in the form of the final judgment for believers. Every believer will be judged according to our works:

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it

is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Conclusion

There are three types of hearers in this congregation this morning. True disciples of Jesus in which the words of Christ have changed and impacted their lives. The onlookers who say they are Christians and yet there is no radical difference of His presence in their lives and lifestyle. And lastly, those that hear the words of Christ and reject him.

It is not enough to hear the Word of God and call Him Lord. It is not enough to hear the Words of Jesus and say that He is God. We must obey what He commands us to do. Being a Christian means there is a radical change from the ways of the world.

It is not enough to read your Bible or Guideposts or other daily Bible reading guide and not heed or adopt a lifestyle where others see Jesus in you.

Jesus confronted those hearing His words to dig and go deep, lay a foundation for their lives on the Foundation Stone...Jesus the Christ. If they do, their lives will be like a house on a good foundation. The Rock of All Ages.”

Please hear me this morning friend. Take a close look at your life and the foundation that you are laying today. Is your house being built upon the Rock of Jesus Christ and the Word of God? Please don't dismiss that thought. Search your heart and your actions this morning. Pardon the pun, but don't leave any stone unturned. Examine your life right now, this very moment.

If you are not like the “wise” man this morning, DIG and GO DEEP right now and set your life on the Stone that the Builders rejected. Jesus the Messiah.