

“The Sermon on the Level - Part 4”
Bearing Fruit and Building Foundations
Luke 6:43-49
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I. Introduction

- A. In our last study in Luke’s gospel, we saw the disposition of a true disciple
 - 1. A magnanimous disposition (vv. 37-38)
 - a) Not judgmental
 - b) They don’t condemn others
 - c) They are forgiving
 - d) They are giving
 - 2. A discerning disposition (vv. 39-42)
 - a) We are not to be judgmental, but we are to be discerning and make judgments
 - b) Jesus warned us not to follow false spiritual teachers. They are:
 - 1) Blind (v. 39)
 - 2) Earthly (v. 40)
 - 3) Hypocritical (vv. 41-42)
- B. Today in our text, Jesus closes his Sermon on the Plain by calling His disciples to “bear fruit” and “build on the right foundation”
 - 1. Being able to judge is essential for growth in your walk with God! A follower of Christ must exercise moral discernment and make necessary biblical judgments
 - 2. To teach this point, Jesus first gives us a lesson from horticulture

II. The True Disciple Bears God’s Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)

- A. The horticulture axiom (vv. 43-44)
- B. The point (v. 45)
 - 1. Our hearts or inner disposition determine the kind of fruit that comes from our life
 - 2. Our words and works reveal our hearts
 - 3. If it is in the well, it will come up in the bucket
 - 4. “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless” (James 1:26).
 - 5. In the context, Jesus is speaking of false teachers (v. 39)
 - a) A true disciple of Christ is to judge men’s words, one’s doctrine, and morals
 - b) We must be judging but not be judgmental
 - 6. How do we judge properly?
 - a) We make a distinction between
 - 1) Making a judgment
 - 2) Offering a judgment
- C. How to make a judgment:
 - 1. Humbly
 - a) Remember your own sinfulness
 - b) (Jeremiah 17:9)

2. Prayerfully
 - a) “Confess your sins and pray for each other” (James 5:16)
 3. Biblically
 - a) (1 Timothy 3:16-17)
 4. Lovingly
 - a) Don’t be judgmental
 5. Mercifully
 - a) Because God has shown you mercy
 6. If you do, you will reflect Jesus
- D. How to offer judgment
1. Privately
 - a) “Go and show him his fault between you and him alone” (Matthew 18:15)
 2. Gently and constructively
 - a) (Galatians 6:1-2)
 3. Be exemplarily
 - a) Let your life shine
- E. It is necessary for Christ followers to make:
1. Doctrinal judgments
 - a) The Bible is true and clear
 - b) Wolves in sheep’s clothing
 2. Moral judgments
 - a) Not relational
 3. Heart judgments (v. 45)
 - a) The heart is evil
 - b) Our lips and lives show what’s in the heart
 - c) The fruit of a man’s life corresponds to the quality of his heart
 - d) (Matthew 7:21-23)
 4. The danger of false profession without obedience
 - a) It was orthodox (Lord)
 - b) It was fervent (Lord, Lord)
 - c) It was a work’s profession (Matthew 7:22)
 - d) It was a false profession
 - 1) “I never knew you...” (Matthew 7:23)

III. The True Disciple Builds on the Right Foundation (Luke 6:46-49)

- A. As Jesus closes His sermon, He shows us that not only should we bear healthy fruit, but we should also build on the right foundation
1. The danger of empty claims (v. 46)
 - a) They claim to be disciples of Christ
 - b) Their doctrine is right, what’s the problem?
 - c) “Do not the things which I say” (v. 46)
 - d) (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - e) What do we do with Christ’s Word?
 2. The marks of discipleship (vv. 47-48)
 - a) Coming
 - 1) “Cometh to me” (v. 47)

- b) Hearing
 - 1) “Hearth my sayings” (v. 47)
 - 2) Illustration- Many church attenders listen to God’s Word the way they listen to a flight attendant explain an aircraft’s safety features. When the mask drops, place it over your nose and continue to breathe normally.
- c) Doing (vv. 47-48)
 - 1) It’s evidence of true salvation
 - 2) It’s living out the Sermon on the Level
- d) It enables us to stand (v. 48)
 - 1) In the future judgment
 - 2) Storms of life
 - a. (Psalm 1)

B. There are false disciples

- 1. They don’t come to Jesus
- 2. They hear, but they don’t obey or do
- 3. Only two builders, two houses, two foundations

C. What must we do to do the work of God?

- 1. The work of God is this that ye believe in (John 6)