



The Gospel According to Luke

Wk. 30 "Determining Falsehood & Declaring Loyalties."

By Pastor Jody May

Luke 6:39-49 ESV

³⁹ He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

A Tree and Its Fruit

⁴³ "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Build Your House on the Rock

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

Luke chapter 6 has become the recruitment manual for our Lord in this day and time. Luke's telling here of the Sermon on the mount was thought to be a reoccurring message that Jesus was teaching throughout the countryside. That is what Evangelist do, they have a handful of sermons that they preach in an area, to make sure the same message gets out because it is an important one. **This sermon of Jesus was proclaiming the coming of the kingdom, it was describing the new people in the kingdom and it was prophetically speaking against those that were trying to keep people out of the kingdom.** This helps you to understand that by the time we get to His crucifixion why thousands of people were following Him, why some believe hundreds of thousands paid homage to Him as the Messiah upon His triumphant entry into



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Jerusalem, and why the Priests and the Pharisees feared him. Jesus had been clear, repeating the same message coupled with miracles, that the Kingdom had come and there had been a change in the people who could be a part of it, these would be His disciples; someone that not only hears what he says but does what he says. **There was essentially three parts to His message:**

- **6:20-26 – A Disciple Displays a Regenerated Heart** thus displaying the ability to Repent. They get that they are poor in spirit, hungry for righteousness, and they experience sadness for what they do – they know they are sinners and have fallen short of God's glory. A fake disciple (Pharisees) finds their joy in the world, what they have now, rejoicing in their good fortune but Woe to them that's a path that leads to hell.
- **6:27-39 – A Disciple Decides to Love**, not just to those that are nice to them, but they love their enemies by blessing them and they love their family by not judging/condemning but forgiving them. A false disciple condemns others to place them underneath them to elevate themselves, there is only love of self.
- **6:39-49 – A Disciple Declares Fealty to Jesus** which shows that you are ready to do two things. First, you must reject and determine what are false teachers and teachings. Secondly, you must do what Jesus says to do, not as a suggestion, but you must obey; supplanting His will for your own. As Jesus modeled for us, "not my will but your will be done" (11:2-4).

My goal today is to make us aware that there are false teachers, we are drawn to them, but that in obedience to Christ we will find we can withstand all that the world can throw against us. (Jesus will use three parables, that is a story that He uses to teach people about the kingdom.)

1. Beware of False Teachers and Teachings.

³⁹ He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"

⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

So, I didn't get into this last week, but blindness in that day and age was a serious thing. With no optometrists, no understanding of debilitating eye diseases, no corrective lens technology, and no emergency medical for eye injuries can you picture the increase in the number of people that would have serious sight problems. Being blind is a common occurrence in this day and age. Pits/Ditches were everywhere and were used to move water in the fields, to direct



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drainage from towns, to move waste through the streets, it's kind of like potholes in the winter in GA. You can't avoid them!

If you want to test your resolve, go home today and walk around for a few hours blindfolded and have your family guide you around the house. Most of us will lose our minds and will end up breaking a toe or something in the house. Jesus is using metaphor and is saying that there is severe danger with an eternal consequence in being spiritually blind, and then on top of that you are led by the spiritually blind, into a place where you can't get out. In that day it was the Pharisees who were the spiritually blind leading spiritually blind people, leading them into the ditches of legalism.

To add to this dilemma Jesus makes an obvious statement and that is a disciple, when he is fully trained cannot rise above their teacher, **you can't get closer to God if your guide is blind.**

Do you know when you become the most susceptible to being led around into ditches by false teachers and teaching? It happens when you are scared, sad, and desperate for help.

Many times, we will run to people that give us comfort, that friend or source that we believe speaks truth into our lives but isn't it funny how our friends 99% of the time only tell us what we like not necessarily what we need? It's kind of looking for support on FB, posting something about yourself, so you can get a positive like. When we feel struggles coming on, we usually go looking for someone or something that makes us feel like we have some control again. This is exactly what the world picks up and why it offers us so many alternatives:

- You're down about not having things you want now so you will listen to the sources in your life that say take on more debt to get what you want now (Brought to you by the credit industry and the American Government).
- You don't like how your spouse treats you, then find someone that treats you better (Ashley Madison Website)
- You want a gospel that promises your best life now (Joel Olsteen or Creflo Dollar)
- You're scared of the responsibility that a child can bring to your life (Planned Parenthood)
- You may struggle with feelings of attraction toward the same sex (LGBTQ)



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All of this is more of the same, it is just the blind leading the blind. The world says make your peace, find some rest *in the flesh* and then go to whatever god you want to go to and yet *people in the world never find rest* which is why there are so many false teachers and teachings to deal with! The Gospel says come to one source, one teacher, He is the answer for everything that makes you tired!

Matthew 11:28-29 ESV

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.** ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Resting in the peace that Jesus brings enables us to be worry of our next ditch.

2. Beware of Fake and Fetid Fruit.

⁴³ "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

I have got this peach tree... The problem is that it is hard to determine if fruit is good or bad, but I need to understand if it is the tree that is bad so I can cut off the influence at the source! So, pray for my tree because I am about to pull the Jesus and fig tree routine on it!

So out of all the parables that Jesus teaches this one is probably one of the most self-explanatory. You don't even have to be a farmer to get this one. The good person will do good things and the bad person will do bad things. But we can get fooled by this because what do you use to determine what is good or bad? **For many people we determine that something is good if we like it and something is bad if we don't.**

For example, my father judged other men by how hard they worked, he thought that was what made a good man, but in that he often turned a blind eye to other things (Illustration of Buddy).

Paul made it pretty clear for us the type of fruit we should be looking for:



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Galatians 5:22-23 ESV

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

These things are slow to be determined they take a while to show BUT those gifts interestingly enough are for the most part are **things you give to others. (Illustration of our fruit trees in Miami) Fruit is something you share it is not a thing to be hoarded.** So, a good way to determine the **falsehood** of a person, the **fake spirituality** of an individual, the **imitation sincerity** of a teacher is to see if the fruit they produce in their lives, is it used for others at the cost of themselves or is it something they give wanting to gain from you, does it cost you to gain from them?

The Pharisees produced fruit that made others envy them and belittled the common man. **Jesus produced fruit that everyone wanted to taste, and it was made available to all.** Are you around people that like to view life - "You do for me and will I do for you." OR are you setting examples that show your neighbors that you are there for them at your expense? If the Gospel has provided for us a regenerated and repentant heart, if the gospel has provided for us a King that has given us the fruit of His labor freely, then we will always have something to give to others! It may not be money, but love given to an enemy or a friend can be displayed in multiple ways.

If someone is telling you not to share, if someone tells you that life is about looking out for yourself, if life is about getting what you can while you can, then that is fake fruit you need to throw it out!

Now why is it important to throw out fetid and spoiled fruit from our lives and why is it important to separate yourselves from teaching that leads you into spiritual ditches in your life? Let me be as clear about this point as I can, because Jesus said so...

3. Declare your Loyalties and Standing Firm.

Build Your House on the Rock

⁴⁶ "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and **hears** my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:



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Before we get to what this person is really like let me share with you the intent in the verse. I want to read you a quote for R.C. Sproul in his observation of the word "HEAR" in v.47.

What does it mean to really hear.

'I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice' (6:47). Jesus wants people who not only hear him, but who obey him. Interestingly, in the New Testament, the verb 'to obey' comes from the same Greek root as the word 'to hear'. *Akouein* means 'to hear', and put a prefix on it: *hyperkouein*, and it means 'to obey'. And so, literally, 'to obey' means hyper-hearing, or really hearing. Jesus does not want people just to hear his voice, he wants them to do the things that they hear.¹

My kids and I play this game, it's called, **Save your Butt**, translated for you it means "*I need to know that what we just talked about you are going to do what I say or there is consequences that you will not like.*" The answer that I am looking for is "**Yes Sir**", but as Sproul was pointing out I am not looking for the Americanized rendering of this term. No, I am looking for that answer that means they have not only listened, but they are actively obeying. The only other choice is to tell me "no" in that moment and roll the dice or lie to us and escalate the penalty for lying to us.

The last test, or the last thing for us all to take away from Jesus' sermon is that **He knows better for your life than you do**. We have already shown Him we want direction because we always run to others who are blind or give us stinky fruit, but He places on us this stipulation: His disciples just don't hear Him they do what He say; it is a "**Yes Sir**". Along with that though is this great promise.

⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

¹ Sproul, R. C. (1999). [*A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke*](#) (p. 130). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.



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The very real Truth of our life is this, what drives us to false teachings, fear, depression, anger, hunger to be told you are right in how you feel, validation for what you want, those things that drive us are not what you should be afraid of. **The real danger is still to come.**

It's the day you're fired, you get the test results back and you have some debilitating disease or it's the word we all dread "Cancer", or someone in your family gets diagnosed with only a short time to live, someone has been in a wreck, one of your children has made a life altering choice. **On that day if you have succumbed to a blind teacher you will drown in the ditch, on that day if you have been eating fake and fetid fruit you will not have the strength to endure, but if you have followed Christ you will stand!**

Because He's the only person in existence that has shown us strength and power enough that even the devil could not entice Him with false teachings and even the devil himself could not produce any fruit to entice Him to give up (Luke 4) and take an easier road. Jesus stood for us because we can't, and He says to us when the flood comes stand on me I have and can take it and I will never let you down! Jesus says if you want to know if you are my disciple then it is proven by how you stand in the trials of life **BECAUSE your ability to stand will show that He has given you His strength. Your greatest moment and chance to declare His greatness is your lowest day when all your strength has left you. For when you are weak then He is strong (2 Cor. 12:10).**

Declare today Highlands your loyalties, declare today whom you will serve but as for me and this house we will serve the Lord and may all that follow Him find the exhilarating joy when they are standing in the midst of trials because Jesus has become enough for them!

In closing let me just remind us of three things we can do today to help us Determine Falsehood and Declare Loyalties: This all has to do with the practice of this spiritual discipline: **DISCERNMENT.**

1. We are to be wary of when teachings tickle our ears too much.
2. We are to remain diligent in checking not just our fruit but the fruit of others in our lives.
3. We are to be clingy when it comes to Jesus.



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Deut. 13:4 NASB

"You shall **follow** the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall **keep** His commandments, **listen** to His voice, serve Him, and **cling** to Him."

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that has provided for us His Word in the Flesh so we would know how good His fruit is.

Go in the name of the Son that offers us the foundation that will not falter if we hear what He has to say.

Go in the name and power of the HS that helps us to Determine Falsehood and Declare our loyalties to Christ.