

Series: Luke
Text: Luke 6:46-49
August 9, 2015: Gospel Community Study Guide

This Study Guide is based on a sermon by Dr. Joshua Mack. You will find the link to the sermon here.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=81015412558>

Getting Started:

Obedience is not everyone's favorite word. But it is a very important word biblically.

Imagine you were sitting down with someone and you wanted to stress how important it was that they obeyed God's word. What are some of the different motivations you would give them?

Into the Bible:

Today we are thinking some more about Luke 6:46-49.

Have someone read this text out loud and answer the following questions:

Where do we find this passage? In other words, this section is part of a larger portion of Scripture. What is happening in the larger portion of Scripture?

In case that question was a bit confusing, we can just say it like this, Jesus is preaching a message to a group of people who are interested in following Him. We call this particular message, "The Sermon on the Plain" because of the particular place in which he preached it. It bears some striking similarities to a message Jesus preached that's recorded for us in Matthew 5-7, which we call, "The Sermon on the Mount." One of those similarities is its conclusion. Have someone read Matthew 7:21-27 and then make observations as a group about what is similar and different about these two conclusions.

<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 7:46-49</p> <p>“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?” Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 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. 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.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matthew 7:43-49</p> <p>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name. And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’</p> <p>Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”</p>
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I think the fact that Jesus concludes both sermons this way indicates this is an issue he is very concerned about. There are many people who show Jesus respect with their words but are unwilling to submit to His authority in their lives. They are religious, but they are not serious about obedience to God’s Word.

Do you think this is still a problem today? If you think so, without gossiping about specific people, can you give some general illustrations of how this is a problem here in Africa?

I am afraid we sometimes fail to see how absolutely vital it is that we obey Jesus in our everyday lives. Let’s quickly look at a few texts that stress the importance of holiness. Read these verses and then note how they emphasize the necessity of practical holiness.

Matthew 5:48:

John 14:15,21,23:

John 15:14:

Titus 2:14:

Hebrews 12:14:

1 John 2:3:

Picking up on what these Scriptures teach, many great and godly men have stressed the importance of holiness throughout the years. Read the following quotes out loud and highlight which one stands out the most to you:

“I do not understand how a man can be a true believer unto whom sin is not the greatest burden, sorrow, and trouble.” John Owen

“Say not that thou hast royal blood in thy veins, and art born of God, except thou canst prove thy pedigree by daring to be holy.” William Gurnall

“I know not what others may think, but to me it does seem clear that heaven would be a miserable place to an unholy man. To reach the holiday of glory, we must pass through the training school of grace. We must be heavenly minded and have heavenly tastes, in the life that now is, or else we shall never find ourselves in heaven, in the life to come.” J.C. Ryle

“The way that crieth down duties and sanctification, is not the way of grace. Believing and doing are blood-friends.” Samuel Rutherford

Given all the Bible says about the importance of holiness, (it is commanded, it is proof we love Jesus, it is why Jesus died for us, we won't go to heaven without it, it is how we know we are saved) what are some reasons you think that people so often seem to think that Christianity mostly consists of saying nice things about Jesus, without really being concerned about their every day lives? In other words, why do you think anyone would think it was enough to call Jesus Lord without being willing to obey Him?

TO THINK ABOUT:

Do you think a person can truly be a Christian without being willing to obey God's Word in every area of their life? Why or why not? Give reasons for your answer!

People have all kinds of different objections for not being willing to do what Jesus says. How would you respond to the following:

-“I am just an ordinary person. Being obedient the way you are describing is only for pastors and super spiritual people.”

-“It is impossible for me to obey Jesus and do what I need to do to survive.”

-“If I obey Jesus the way you are describing, I am going to be different than everyone else.”

-“Hey, no one is perfect.”

-“But look at everybody else. If obedience is this important, there’s hardly anyone out there that really is a Christian.”

Whatever particular reasons a person might have for not obeying Jesus, Jesus wants them to know, that this is a huge problem for them. What illustration does he give in verses 47-49 of Luke 6 to show that, and what does this illustration teach us about the importance of doing what Jesus says?

What impact will simply being religious without being obedient have on your life right now?

What impact will it have on your life to come?

Summing Up:

We are praying we won’t just be a church that says the right things about Jesus, but also a church that lives out what it claims to believe. We say Jesus is Lord, but do we live like it?

-Jesus says that loving God with all of our strength is the greatest commandment. Are you seeking to love God like this?

-Jesus says that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves, and even our enemies. Is there a pattern of sacrificial love on display in your life?

-Jesus says that we are to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations, are you telling others about Jesus and helping them come to know Him better?

We could go on and on with questions like these I am sure, but we don't have time. Still I would challenge you to pause this week and reflect on your life. In terms of your relationship with God, are you more than just words?

To Think About:

What are some of the main encouragements or challenges you have taken from what we have studied together today? Is there any specific word of praise you would like to give to God for what you have learned about Jesus today? How about questions? Do you have any thing you are still wondering from what we have talked about? What are some of the practical differences what you studied makes on your life? What would you like to share with someone else? Is there any specific issue that this study has brought up that you want the members of your gospel community to be praying for you about?