

Remnant Life Church
October 23, 2016
**The Parables of Jesus:
Putting Belief into Practice**

Introduction

Luke 6:46

- **Luke 6:46** – *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?*
- The time of Jesus' ministry that Luke is writing is approximately half way through the second year of Jesus' ministry
- This passage is the conclusion of the Sermon on the Plain
 - Not to be confused with the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5**
 - Some try and use this passage in Luke against the passage in Matthew to argue the discrepancies in the Bible
 - Similar content as Jesus teaches again what he taught earlier
 - Repetition in the Bible denotes significance
 - The fact that Jesus repeated himself indicates that what He is teaching is very important
 - Jesus' sermon in Matthew is much fuller than what is recorded in Luke although there are 4 primary themes found in both
 - Love your enemies (**Luke 6:27-36; Matt 5:43-48**)
 - Do not judge other people (**Luke 6:37-42; Matt 7:1-6**)
 - A tree (person) is known by its fruit (actions/words) (**Luke 6:43-45; Matt 7:15-20**)
 - The importance of building on a firm foundation (**Luke 6:46-49; Matt 7:24-27**)
- Jesus has just come down from the mountains of the surrounding region where He had been praying
 - He Glory was wrapped in a very human body that got tired, hungry, etc – it needed to be recharged
 - We quickly realize at least one of the purposes of His time in prayer – choosing His disciples
 - The account of Matthew goes into greater detail regarding the first 4 disciples – Peter, Andrew, James, and John – and how they met Jesus (**Matt 4:18-22**)
 - Luke does not refute that passage but simply reports that in this situation this is what He was told or how he chose to record the event
 - Realize that Luke, a Greek, wrote primarily to the Gentiles while Matthew, a Jew, wrote for the Jews meaning the information would have been presented differently
 - This calling of the 12 can be seen as an ordination service or sorts where the 12 are set aside in front of the crowd
- When He reaches the plain the crowds of people are waiting for Him to listen to Him teach and be healed of their diseases

- **Jesus' teaching in The Sermon on the Plain is about putting belief into practice**
 - The overall theme is walking in belief is blessed (4 blessings of the 9 in Matt 5 – 6:20-22) while unbelief is filled with hardship (7 woes – 6:24-26)
- Putting belief into practice calls for us to **love our enemies** (6:27-36)
 - The law of love is *Love as God Loves*
 - This teaching is radical to those listening
 - Not just loving your family and friends
 - But love those who hate you (6:27)
 - This love is not a feeling or an emotion – it is an action!
 - In the midst of this segment's teaching Jesus sums it up with 12 words - *Do to others as you would like them to do to you.* (6:31)
 - By loving our enemies, we become more like Jesus, who gave His life for those who hated and rejected Him (Rom 5:7-8)
- Putting belief into practice causes us to develop **Christ-like integrity** (6:37-42)
 - Jesus talks about judging others when we have things in our own lives that we should attend to (6:37a)
 - He again calls for everyone to forgive so that they will be forgiven (6:37b)
 - He then speaks words that many Christians today speak as a blessing but, in reality, this is not what Jesus is teaching
 - *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* (Luke 6:38)
 - The blessing is a result of obedient action
 - Give and it will be given to you
 - The measure you use is what will be measured to you
 - It is the biblical principle of sowing and reaping
- Putting belief into practice develops **Christ-like character** (6:43-45)
 - A person says and acts as he is
 - Jesus says a good tree bears good fruit and a bad tree bad fruit
 - 6:44 – *Each tree is recognized by its own fruit*
 - What do you people know you for?
 - If a person hears your name what is the first thing that they think?
 - Is it a Christ-like person or is something else by the fruit that you produce?
- Putting belief into practice develops **Christ-like stability** (6:46-49)
 - Jesus concludes this teaching by talking about the foundation of a house
 - The home is the anchor place or seat of a person's life
 - The heart is also called that
 - The word heart is found over 700 times in the Bible
 - Only 8 books out of the entire Bible do not contain the word heart
 - (Matt 5:8) - *Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God*

- *(Luke 6:45) - A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*
- *Ezek 36:26 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*
- Putting belief into practice does not begin with...
 - ...your mind although you must know what it is God desires for you to be and how you are to live
 - ...your emotions since they can lie and deceive you and be changed so easily
 - ...your will because the enemy knows he can influence your will through deception and struggles
- It begins with you heart
 - When your heart is fully surrendered to Christ all of the other aspects of your life will follow
 - Again – *Luke 6:45 - A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*
- Surrendering your heart means first asking Jesus to be Lord of your life
- It then means desiring to live your life fully for Him in every area
 - Many give their lives but reserve particular areas for themselves
 - Some say they have accepted Jesus into their lives but are simply not willing to give up what they want as being first and foremost in their lives
- Response
 - First – to accept Jesus
 - Then - to further relinquish an area(s) of your life that you know have been held back
 - TOTAL SURRENDER