



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story of Perspective

Luke 6:39-49

Message #22 of 50 – S799

Sermon given on July 8, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

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A Story of Perspective

Luke 6:39-49

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 6**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- There was a time in my life when I wanted nothing to do with religion or Christians
- From my perspective, they were as far from what I wanted to be in my life as you could be
- To change my perspective, God put a Christian in my life
- For many years, Kelly tried to change my perspective, which I resisted
- But then she changed her tactic and simply let her light shine
- She started living out her faith **1 Peter 3:1-2**

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.

- As I watched her life, my perspective began to change – to the point that I became curious about the God-thing that seemed so important to her
- Having the right perspective is crucial for making good choices and living the kind of life you really want
- Perspective can also be described as viewpoint – defined: one's mental view of facts, ideas, etc., and their interrelationships
- If our perspective is wrong, the conclusions and decisions we draw from that perspective are also going to be wrong
- Jesus is preaching a very special sermon here
- It is to His disciples – just chosen the Twelve Apostles
- He wants them to understand what it means to be a true disciple
- And Jesus doesn't hold back
- First tells them, as true disciples, will be poor and hungry, your heart will be broken, and you will be hated
- Second, describes 7 unnatural traits of a true disciple: love your enemies – do good to those who hate you – bless those who curse

you – pray for those who mistreat you – do not retaliate – give freely – treat others the way you want to be treated

- Third, gave them and us four confusing traits of a true disciple – do not judge people’s motives – do not condemn – forgive everyone – be generous always
- Fourth and finally, Jesus wraps up this sermon with a call to examination and a description of the life of a true disciple
- And it is in that description that makes the hard life of a true disciple worth the effort and cost
- Let’s pray and then look at the end of this powerful teaching
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story of Perspective**
- One of the problems with perspective – we usually assume that our perspective is right and complete
- But what if it isn’t right or complete
- As Jesus prepares to conclude this sermon – gives us four things we should examine in our life to make sure our perspective is correct
- First – **Examine your leader**
- **Luke 6:39-40**
- There is a term we use in the church – discipleship
- Simply put – discipleship is the process of helping someone become a disciple
- Disciples are not born – Jesus said they are made **Matthew 28:19**
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...
- This is one of the foundational purposes of the church
- You will regularly hear me use a variation of the phrase – Glorify God, bless others, and growing in faith – growing = discipleship
- Turn in your Bible to **2 Timothy 4**
- This is one of the last things that the apostle Paul wrote before he was executed for his faith
- You need to examine the person who is discipling you – who is teaching you how to be a disciple
- **2 Timothy 4:1-2**
- ‘Preach the word!’ – this is why we teach the way we do

- But, we live in a culture that is increasingly desiring something else
- **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
- Notice the phrase ‘according to their own desires’
- You could substitute ‘perspective’ for ‘desires’ there
- In the book of Revelation, Jesus rebuked the church of Laodicea for being blind and not knowing it
- I believe He was talking about most of the churches in America right now
- Turn back to **Luke 6**
- Examine your spiritual leaders – does their life reflect the things they say

No sermon preaches louder than an authentic life.

- Paul told his readers – “Imitate me as I imitate Christ”
- Find someone who is following Christ well and follow Him into deeper faith
- Second examination – **Examine yourself**
- **Luke 6:41-42**
- We are often quick to examine others, while overlooking our own greater failings, weaknesses, and sins
- And the idea here is that the speck and the plank are the same sins
- Remember, in the last message we were told to ‘judge not’
- If you are busy searching for specks in other people’s eyes, you will judge them when you see them – Paul said **2 Corinthians 13:5**

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- Instead of looking for specks in their eyes, focus on dealing with your own sin – less likely to judge others for their specks
- Third examination – **Examine your fruit**
- **Luke 6:43-45**
- The fruit indicates the condition of the plant or tree
- **Picture of grapevine** – good fruit = good plant
- Examine what is coming out of your life – good or bad – especially out of your mouth – Tip: record yourself and listen to yourself
- What comes out indicates the condition of the heart
- Notice Jesus isn’t putting any conditions on that statement

- Saying, you are responsible for what is in your heart
- Not someone or something else – not what they did to you – not about what happened to you
- To be a true disciple – examine your heart – take responsibility for the fruit you find coming out and let God change your heart – cleansing of the Word, the power of the Spirit, and the communion of the saints
- Fourth and final thing – **Examine your obedience**
- **Luke 6:46-47**
- To say ‘Lord, Lord’ is to claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Claiming to be a disciple doesn’t make you one – obedience does
- The rest of the verse I read earlier **Matthew 28:19-20**
Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...
- This is where perspective is critical
- Regularly I counsel with people about the bad fruit in their life
- Rarely do they see it as an issue of personal obedience
- Usually see it as an external problem – outside of themselves
- I have a desire to bear good fruit on my grapevines
- And so, I am doing what I need to do to ensure good fruit
- Jesus gives us three things in verse 47
- First – **Comes to Me**
- This is calling for a real, vital, and active relationship with Christ
- This includes salvation, prayer, confession, and repentance
- Second – **Hears My sayings**
- John 1 – Jesus = ‘the Word become flesh’ – the whole Bible
- Read it – but more is implied here with the word ‘hears’
- Infers listening with intention – reading the Bible is good, but not enough – need to hear it taught – will challenge you to examine your perspective
- Third – **Does them**
- A true disciple knows what Jesus says and does what Jesus says
- If you are going to call Jesus ‘Lord’ means you are committed to doing what He says
- British form of government used to be a monarchy – king or queen ruled

- Over the centuries changed into a constitutional monarchy
- There is still a king or queen, but the Parliament actually rules
- That's what many Christians want in their relationship with Jesus
- Jesus is King (King of kings), but they want to make the rules and live how they want to
- That kind of life comes at a steep price
- Jesus goes on to describe the results of true disciple's life versus building any other kind of life
- **Luke 6:47b-49**
- Two men building identical houses – houses symbolizing your life, and everything in it
- The difference is that the first man 'dug deep' = comes to Jesus, hears His sayings, and does them
- The 'foundation on the rock' is a picture of Jesus and His Word
- It is harder to live the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Notice also in verse 48 'when the flood arose'
- The same flood hit both houses – the true disciple of Christ and the other man both hit by the same hard thing
- Maybe you have lived a blessed life, never experienced any hard things – maybe no one has died – maybe never experienced divorce – drug addiction, abuse, or neglect – maybe never exposed to violence or war – maybe never lost a job, house, or important relationship
- Maybe never dealt with chronic pain or disease or serious injury
- Life in the real world is filled with floods, storms, trials, tribulations – hard things
- Being a true disciple of Jesus doesn't make you immune to them
- If your life is built on the foundation of the rock/Christ, then the floods 'could not shake it' – mess it up – **Our flood story**
- You can stand, even as others are collapsing around you
- The key is digging deep to the rock
- Let me ask you, 'what do you have to dig through to get to the rock'?
- Verse 49 says, 'the earth'
- The first man dug deep through the things of this world – man's philosophies, our societies attitudes and values, our own experiences, the views of our peers, or social media

- A true disciple examines their leaders; himself/herself; the fruit of their life; and their obedience
- And then they dig deep – come to Jesus in intimate relationship, listening intentionally to His sayings, and does them faithfully
- And when the flood comes – as bad as that flood might be – won't shake that house
- As a husband, father, grandfather, and pastor, I realize that I must dig deep and build the foundation of my life on the rock of Jesus Christ
- Not only do I want to be unshaken by the floods that will come into my life, I want to be a place of refuge and strength for those God has placed in my life
- I would challenge every man in here to see their spiritual calling in the same way
- And ladies, even if he doesn't, you do it – let's all do it **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- We do that by digging deep to the Rock of Jesus Christ
- Let's all be true disciples of Christ
- **Pray!**