

Message #27

Luke 6:46-49

It is interesting to watch sportscasters try to fit in with the team when a team has just won a major championship. Just this week when Boston won the World Series, the sports boys/girls were on the field trying to fit in and ask ridiculous questions.

Not long ago there was a sportscaster who was interviewing a coach of a football team and the sports announcer was calling the man “coach,” as if the man were his coach and he was part of the team. He was trying to fit in with the rest of the guys as best as he could and he was calling him “coach.” That aggravated me. Truth is the sports announcer is not part of the team. He really has no right to call a man coach unless he trains under him and is part of the team. The coach is not his coach or our coach, he is the team’s coach and it was obvious that the sports announcer was trying to be part of the group, which he wasn’t.

There are many people who do that in religion today when it comes to Jesus Christ. They like to think of themselves as part of His family and team. They even like to call Him Lord or identify Him as the Savior and as God. They talk the talk as if they are really close to Him:

- 1) Some people say Jesus is the Lord God and Master but have no interest as to whether or not it is even true.
- 2) Some people say Jesus is the Lord God and Master but have no interest in knowing or obeying the Word of God.
- 3) Some people say Jesus is the Lord God and Master but are more interested in obeying their religious traditions and man-made rules.
- 4) Some people say Jesus is the Lord God and Master and are very serious about understanding and obeying the Word of God.

Who do you think has a right to call Jesus Christ Lord? What is the criterion God uses to determine whether or not we have a right to call Jesus Christ Lord?

Let’s say a person is a believer in Jesus Christ, does that automatically mean that person has the right to call Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master? Let’s say a person publicly joined the church, does that mean that the person would have a right to call Jesus Christ their Lord and Master? What is the criterion that is used to determine this from God’s perspective?

The answer to this question is found in this text. The relative pronoun “what” that shows up in **verse 46** answers the question and tells quite a story. That pronoun “what” grammatically connects this to the preceding verses.

A great throng of people were following Jesus Christ. They were following Him, listening to Him and they were learning from Him and they were trying to touch Him (Luke 6:17-19). He was teaching them all kinds of things.

He was not teaching them man-made rules and religious traditions. He was teaching them the Word of God. He was teaching them the real grace of God. Many of the people were listening to Him, but were staying in their dead religion. In fact, in Matthew's parallel account, he uses the very same illustration in the context of false religion (Matt. 7:21-23). Many were listening to Christ and staying in their system of religion.

Now undoubtedly many of these people were saying we are disciples and He is our Lord. He is our God and our Messiah. But just because one said he was a disciple (Luke 6:20) did not make it true. In fact, just because one says Jesus is Lord, does not mean that God accepts it as truth. That point is clear from this text.

Jesus Christ wants to teach a very important point:

THOSE WHO HAVE A LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO CALL JESUS CHRIST LORD ARE THOSE WHO ARE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT LISTENING TO AND OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD; AND THE EVIDENCE THEY DO THIS IS THAT THEY HAVE AN UNSHAKEABLE AND UNMOVEABLE FAITH THAT WILL WITHSTAND ANY STORM.

This text describes a very dangerous situation. One could regularly go to church and be totally stuck in their religious, legalistic thinking. One could be so engrained with their religious traditions and denominational mandates that they never change and never grow. People can get in their cars every Sunday and go hear truth, come under conviction and stay in their rut. Why would you call Jesus Christ your Master and Lord when you are more interested in obeying religion than Him?

In **verse 46**, Christ begins with a question: Why do you call me Lord and don't do what I say? That is a good question. That is a fair question. Why would a person say Jesus Christ is my Lord and my Master if one were not willing to do what Jesus Christ wanted them to do?

A person who says that Jesus Christ is Lord of their life and is not willing to obey Him is a hypocrite. Darrell Bock said it well when he said, "the life that makes the confession without obedience is without substance" (*Luke 1:1-9:50*, p. 618). The point of this text is to challenge people to be obedient so they may have a strong, stable faith.

Now this raises an interesting question and that is what does it mean to actually "call Jesus Lord"? Now in this context the primary point was that some people were calling Jesus Christ Lord, who really didn't have the right to do it. Some people were obviously saying Jesus was the "Lord, Lord."

Typically in the Bible, when there is a double repetition of the name, it does express some form of emotional intimacy. For example, when David learned about his son Absalom being killed, he said, "Absalom, Absalom" (II Sam. 18:33). When Jesus saw Jerusalem, he said, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem" (Matt. 23:37). So when people were saying, "Lord, Lord," there was emotion in it.

What we really need to know is what it means to identify Jesus Christ as Lord.

One answer to this question is that it is a statement of Christ's deity. That is certainly how Peter used that noun in Luke 5:8, when he identified Christ as God. That clearly was in mind in Paul's salvation statement in Romans 10:9.

One cannot be saved if one does not believe that Jesus Christ is God. Now certainly that could be in view here. The meaning would be if you are calling Me God, then why aren't you obeying what I tell you to do?

Another perspective is that this is a discipleship concept, meaning they were saying Jesus was Lord and Master of their lives and they were His disciple. In that sense, Jesus would be saying why do you say I am Lord and Master of your life and you are my disciple if you do not obey me?

The word "Lord" (κυριε, κυριε), which is repeated twice, is one that typically means to be Lord, Master, and one who has total authority (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 261-262). This is often a statement concerning Christ that refers to His Deity. In other words, it is often a statement that refers to the fact that He is God.

Not only do we think this is a statement that Jesus is God, but also that He is the Master over everything. **So this is a statement of Christ's Deity and Sovereignty.**

Now the point is there were many people actually following Christ saying He is God and He is our Master. So Jesus says, why don't you break from your religion and get serious about Me and My Word.

In **verses 47-49**, Jesus describes two types of people who build houses who end up illustrating two different types of faith. **In Matthew, he uses two different builders who build on two different building sites (Matt. 7:24-27). One picks a building site on the rock and the other picks one on the sand. Luke uses two different builders on one building site. They both are building at the same site.**

We must assume contextually that both types of builders were calling Jesus their Lord.

PERSON TYPE #1 – The person who calls Christ Lord who has rock-solid faith. **6:47-48**

Christ begins by saying "everyone" who comes to Him and hears His words and acts on them; I will show you what he is like. The word "everyone" specifically had to do with all the people who went to see and hear Jesus Christ.

Now the inference is that in an audience of people, who actually came to hear Jesus teaching, you could have two types of people.

One type could go to Christ and hear His words because they liked to listen to Him, but they would not act on the words. Another group could go to hear Jesus and listen to Him with the idea that I will obey what He says I need to do.

Both groups look the same, but they are responding differently. You cannot tell the people apart by their looks, but eventually you can tell them by their response and by the foundation of their faith.

Now the first illustration is that of a person who goes to hear the Word of God with the goal of obeying it and applying it. This type of person will ultimately end up with a rock-solid faith.

Luke gives a detailed description of a man who builds a house. He gives far more details about Christ's teaching on this than anyone else.

The first builder took no shortcuts in what he built. The actual construction of the house, according to Luke, included three phases:

(Phase #1) - The builder of the house digs.

What this means is that the builder is digging through the topsoil in order to get down to the bedrock base. Now this digging was not done with a bulldozer and backhoe on a tractor, it was done by hand. This was tough work and it took time to do it.

In 2016, a bronze shovel was discovered in Galilee that dated back to this time period. It had a short handle and a pointed end that looked like one half of a posthole digger. To take that shovel and actually dig away the topsoil to get to the bedrock by hand would be tedious work that would require much effort.

(Phase #2) - The builder of the house digs deep.

Luke points out that the rock base was not at a surface level, but it was deep in the ground. So if one were to build a house on a rock base, you had to dig deep. This would be very time-consuming and not quick and easy.

(Phase #3) - The builder of the house lays a foundation on the rock.

So the builder dug through the topsoil and went deep into the ground and built a solid foundation for his house on the bedrock.

Now bad weather is a threat to any house. We have just seen the devastation that hurricanes may cause. High winds and pounding and rising water can demolish a building fast.

In the fall, in Palestine, there are heavy downpours of rain and those rains can create torrents of rivers that can rise and crash against a house. Luke describes a torrential rain and flood that came up against the house.

When the wind and water comes against a house that has a foundation built on a solid rock bed, that house will not be shaken or destroyed by the storm, because the foundation is well-grounded.

Now the point is obvious. The person who takes the time to carefully and painstakingly take in the Word of God and obeys and applies it develops a solid, unshakeable faith. Storms may arise, but the faith is solid because the faith has been based on a careful understanding and application of God's Word.

Storms come. Storms howl. The faith is solid as a rock and it will withstand the storm because it is grounded in a careful understanding and obedience to God's Word.

PERSON TYPE #2 – The person who calls Christ Lord and has unstable, shallow faith. **6:49**

Now the second builder has the same opportunity, but decides to take a short cut. The description of how they built their house is completely different. Their house went up much faster with much less work and effort.

This builder decided simply to build their house at ground level on the dirt. In fact, they didn't even have any foundation. They were at the same location, but did not have the same response.

In contrast to the person, who builds his faith on what is solid, there are those who listen to the Word of God but they aren't real serious about it and they really don't intend to apply it. Rather than building a deep foundation, they build on the ground. It is surface level and shallow and when the storm comes, they fall apart. **Foolish people live for the moment; wise people live in light of eternity.**

This kind of person has no solid roots. So along comes a storm and the house collapses and the place is in ruins. That is what happens to people who are not serious about the Word of God. You will see who has the well-grounded foundation of faith when the storms hit. The storm may be health or finances or family or friends, and those storms determine who has solid faith and who doesn't.

LESSONS:

- 1) God's Word is the only absolute authority we have and we need to learn it and obey it.**
- 2) People of solid faith are people who are very serious about understanding and applying the entire Word of God.**

- 3) Church traditions and man-made rules do not lead people closer to God; they lead them away from God. They do not lead people to a stable faith, but to a collapsible faith.**
- 4) Obeying God's Word is more important than obeying traditions because obeying God's Word is what leads to a stable faith.**