

# God's Kingdom Manifesto, P. 3

## E.T.S.

In part three of God's Kingdom Manifesto found in Luke 6:39-49, Jesus challenged His disciples to examine four aspects of their connection with Christ.

## E.S.S.

Part three of God's Kingdom Manifesto invites us to examine our connection with Christ.

## OBJ.

**For the Christ Seeker:** Show the unbeliever that God's Kingdom will be the only enduring kingdom. Convince him or her to become part of God's Kingdom through believing in Jesus Christ for salvation.

**Christ Follower:** Show the believer what being part of God's Kingdom looks like. Convince him or her to live according to God's Kingdom principles.

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## Introduction

Would you join me in the Gospel according to Luke chapter six?

Over the last two weeks, we have examined Jesus's message recorded in verses 20-49. This message, which compares with the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew chapters five through seven, shows the implications of the rule of Jesus in our lives. The committed follower of Jesus is the audience.

The first section of the message identifies the attitudes of those who live for and build God's Kingdom. Four pairs of attitudes are set in contrast to one another. The contrasts represent the themes of dependence, desire, delight, and drive. The committed follower of Jesus evidences Jesus's rule in His life by depending on God in recognition of his own utter insufficiency. He or she also demonstrates a desire for God, a strong appetite for God and God's ways. Then, the committed follower of Jesus lives with delight in the Lord, creating a holy dissatisfaction with the world. This reveals itself most prominently through grief over personal sin and longing for the totality of our salvation. Finally, the committed follower of Jesus possesses the proper drive: to please and honor Jesus first!

In the second section of Jesus's message, we identified the actions of the committed follower of Jesus. The committed follower of Jesus really hears, while the casual follower of Jesus only hears. The committed follower listens attentively, intelligently, intently, and obediently. His or her commitment to Jesus then is demonstrated through three primary actions or qualities that are evidenced in his or her life. He or she loves genuinely, lends generously, and lives graciously.

We come to the final section of the message found in verses 39-49 of Luke six. Follow along as

I read the verses.

## Bible

*(39) And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? (40) The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. (41) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (42) Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye. (43) For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (44) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. (45) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. (46) And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. (49) But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against*

*which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

*Luke 6:39-49 - KJV*

## **Introduction**

In concluding the message, Jesus presented a series of warnings.

## **Illustration**

Warnings are part of life. We see warnings posted everywhere and on everything. Look at some of these...

(Pictures of warning signs shown in presentation).

## **Introduction**

Listen to the exhortation of the apostle Paul found in Ephesians 5:15.

## **Bible**

*(15) See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,*

*Ephesians 5:15 - KJV*

## **Introduction**

Paul's exhortation challenges us to be careful, to be cautious, much as a warning sign does.

Though some humor us, and we really don't take them seriously, we should take the warnings of

Jesus very seriously. These warnings each challenge us to thorough self-examination.

Honestly practice self-examination in the four areas.

## **1...Examine Your Following (vv. 39-40)**

### **Explanation**

Jesus presents a thought that produces two questions for us: Who are you following? and How are you leading those following you?

### **Illustration**

Jesus isn't demeaning physically blind people. He loved and healed them He's using the physical limitation of blindness to illustrate a spiritual reality.

My dad has one eye that essentially has no vision. He was shot in that eye by someone using a bb gun years ago. I would not want to follow my dad if he covered his good eye and tried to lead me only using his bad eye.

Why?

He cannot clearly see where he is going.

### **Explanation**

Jesus showed that it's foolish to follow someone who cannot clearly see the way. He applied this

to Pharisees in Matthew 15:14.

## **Bible**

*(14) Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

*Matthew 15:14 - KJV*

## **Explanation**

It's important to follow someone who can see, which represents someone who follows Jesus.

## **Application**

Who are you following?

Following those who themselves follow Jesus identifies an important task of the believer. Above all, follow Jesus personally.

## **Explanation**

"A disciple was much like a student, with the added element of following and patterning after the master or teacher. In this way, the disciple would never be greater than the teacher, yet everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. We will become like those we follow, so we must decide to choose good teachers to follow" (Guzik).

## **Application**

Take time to honestly assess who you are following. Then, think about how you are leading those who are following you. Everyone, without exception, follows and leads. Are you leading those who follow you in following Jesus?

## **2...Examine Your Focus (vv. 41-42)**

### **Illustration**

If you've worked with children in a Sunday School, Childrens' Church, VBS, or similar setting for any length of time, you have heard, "Pastor Mike, Joe had his eyes open while we were praying."

How do you respond?

Usually something like this: "How do you know Joe had his eyes open?" or "Well, doesn't that mean you had your eyes open too?"

### **Explanation**

Isn't that the behavior Jesus identified in verses 41-42?

It isn't only children who naturally focus on others' behavior over their own. It's the natural tendency of us all. We naturally recognize sin in others, while failing to see it in ourselves.

Writing about this tendency, pastor and author Paul David Tripp writes, "Sin is deceptive, and who does it deceive first? I have no difficulty recognizing the sin of the people around me, but I can be quite unprepared when others point out my sin. Sin deceives ten out of ten people

reading this article. Spiritual blindness isn't like physical blindness. When you're physically blind, you know you're blind, so you compensate for this significant physical deficit. But spiritually blind people are not only blind, they are also blind to their own blindness! They think they see well, so the spiritually blind person walks around with the delusion that no one has a more accurate view of himself than he does" (Tripp, <https://www.paultripp.com/articles/posts/blind-to-our-blindness>).

## Application

Are you more concerned with and focused on the failures of others, or your own? While it's unhealthy to remember and relive failures of the past that are confessed and forsaken, it's also unhealthy to be more focused on the attitudes and actions of others than your own. That doesn't mean that we should be unwilling to edify and exhort others, but we should do so in full recognition of our own lives.

## Bible

*(1) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (2) Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

*Galatians 6:1-2 - KJV*

## Application

The people who are most gracious with others about their faults are the people who are most honest with themselves about their own.



# 3...Examine Your Fruit (vv. 43-45)

## Explanation

There are several observations we need to recognize in this portion of the passage.

First, the Bible teaches the unrealistic possibility of sinless perfection. That's not Jesus's point here.

Second, though others can see the evidence of your life and you can see the evidence of others' lives, only God can accurately and completely know and judge people. Jesus is not giving us a basis to do what He commanded us not to do just a few verses earlier.

Third, if you believe that being a believer and being a disciple are distinct issues, then you must also believe that the tree and fruit illustration can apply to the discussion of unbeliever or believer, as well as to the discussion of casual follower and committed follower.

Fourth, actions and words are products of the heart.

Fifth, the basis of viewing this teaching from Jesus flows from His earlier teaching. What constitutes good fruit? Loving genuinely, lending generously, and living graciously.

## Application

I think the best approach to a passage like this follows the previous in context, interpretation, and application. It's not a justification to judge others, but an exhortation to judge yourself. How does your fruit identify you? The apostle Paul exhorted the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11:28,

"Examine yourself."

Let that exhortation influence you to examine yourself.

## **4...Examine Your Foundation (vv. 46-49)**

### **Illustration**

This picture, taken sometime around 1927 along the Jordan River, shows what happened to a home built on soft ground when an earthquake took place in the Jordan River Valley.

It's the same as happens to your life when it's built on a "soft foundation" when life's storms come your way.

### **Explanation**

One commentator said of Jesus's words, "Jesus drew an analogy between responses to His words and building a house. The one who obeys what Jesus says builds a house on a rock (v. 48), while the one who does not heed His words builds upon the earth (v. 49). The house on the rock stands, and the other falls. Everyone builds their life on some foundation. No other foundation will stand the tests of life as well as Jesus Christ" (Hinson & Mitchell).

That's not to say that the believer and committed follower will not grieve, experience sorrow, or temptation. However, the believer and committed follower will endure and maintain faith in and following of Christ.

## **Bible**

*(8) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; (9) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; (10) Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

*2 Corinthians 4:8-10 - KJV*

## **Application**

Build your life on Jesus. All of it. He is sufficient for everything.

## **Conclusion**