

05-27-2018

Message: To Receive Jesus as Lord Is to Obey Him

Text: Luke 6:43-49

Introduction

A. Tomorrow in the U.S. is Memorial Day, a day to honor those who died in our nation's wars. Today, the first day of the week, is the Lord's Day, a celebration honoring Jesus Christ whom God raised from the dead as Lord. We honor our nation's war dead in various ways, including putting flags or flowers on their graves. We honor Jesus Christ when we receive Him as Lord, risen from the grave.

B. Fill in the blank with one word: To receive Jesus as Lord is to _____ Jesus.

C. We would be biblically correct to insert several words - worship, honor, serve, imitate, etc. The word to fill in from Jesus's own words at the end of Luke 6 is "obey." To receive Jesus as Lord is to obey Him. Coming to the end of His teaching recorded in Luke 6, Jesus now exhorts all who would be His disciples to obey His words.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not **do what I say?**

I. To receive Jesus as Lord is to obey Jesus from a heart of faith and love toward Him.

A. Jesus had just said that good hearts produce good fruit; that the mouth speaks from that which fills our hearts.

Luke 6:45 "The good man out of **the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good**; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for **his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.**

John 14:15 "**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

B. In Hebrew culture, the doubling of a word of address signifies deep earnestness, seriousness, or in this case, reverence. E.g.,

Genesis 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "**Abraham, Abraham!**" And he said, "Here I am."

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Truly, truly**, (amen, amen) I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

C. While emphatically calling Jesus Lord "sounds" good, those words can still come from a bad, insincere, unregenerate heart.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' **and do not do what I say?**

Titus 1:16 **They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him**, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

II. A distortion of Christ's gospel within some evangelical teaching wrongly suggests Jesus can be received as Savior without being received as Lord.

A. Some of us, like me, have experienced thinking we were Christians when we were not. I grew up in an independent, fundamentalist, Bible believing church, where we routinely heard testimonies of salvation that would state something like, "I received Jesus as my Savior when I was 10 years old, but didn't receive Him as Lord until I was 20." Now it could have been in some cases the person at age 10 was truly saved by faith in the Lord Jesus, but came to a deeper appreciation of His lordship at age 20, yet expressed this deeper awareness in incorrect theological terms that we had heard from others, and which were not corrected by church leadership. For others like me, though we believed we were Christians, we did not become so until we received Christ by faith as Lord. We were deceived.

1. We had misunderstood famous Scriptures such as John 1:12, which in the King James translation states,

KJV "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name."

2. 400 years ago the KJV translators inserted in italics the word "even," which for them in this context meant "again," pointing out that John was restating his first descriptive clause in different wording. But not understanding this usage of 400 year old English or the Hebrew parallelism in this verse, we interpreted this last phrase as meaning, "even if we do as little as believing in who Jesus is as Savior."
3. The Hebrews use "parallelism," restating the same idea in different terms, to emphasis and clarify statements. Christ inspires His apostle John to emphasis and clarify the definition of saving, justifying faith in John's gospel. Here is a translation of the original Greek, with the parallel phrases put next to each other. We become Christians, children of God, fellow heirs with Christ when we receive Jesus for all His Name reveals Him to be - Lord, God, Savior, Lamb of God - sin-covering sacrifice, High Priest, Messiah/Christ/King, the Way, Truth, Life, Creator, eternal Word, Good Shepherd, etc.

John 1:12

as many as **received** Him,
to those **believing/faithing** in His name,
to them He gave the right to become children of God,

III. Jesus's call to obey Him as Lord is a call to a faith in Him by which He justifies us.

A. Justification's (Slide: Jesus our shield) ...

1. Ground = Christ's work
2. Instrument of Union ("in Christ") = faith

Ephesians 3:17 so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

B. Justifying Faith's ...

1. Object = Christ

Romans 3:26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has **faith in Jesus**.

2. Expression =

- a. Confession

Romans 10:9 that **if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; **take hold of the eternal life** to which you were called, and **you made the good confession** in the presence of many witnesses.

- b. Obedience, good works. Good works can only be done by faith from a regenerate heart. H.A. Ironside - "We cannot live the life until first we possess it."

Romans 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about **the obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

- C. When Jesus calls us to obey Him as Lord, He is calling us to that justifying faith which produces obedience from the heart, without which there can be no true obedience, no obedience to Him as Lord.

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?¹⁷ But **thanks be to God** that though you were

slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

1. Hebrews teaches us that doing the will of God = living by faith.

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that **when you have done the will of God**, you may receive what was promised.³⁷ **FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.**³⁸ **BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;** AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

2. When Abraham obeyed God in leaving his homeland, he obeyed by faith. When Abraham obeyed God by offering his son Isaac on an altar, Abraham's faith was working with his deeds. (Illustration: walking by faith in the footsteps of our father Abraham)

Hebrews 11:8 **By faith Abraham**, when he was called, **obeyed** by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

James 2:21 ... when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?²² You see that **faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;**

IV. Receiving Christ as Lord by faith is a matter of eternal life versus eternal death.

- A. In 6:47-49 Jesus gives us a parable encouraging us to build one's life of the foundation of Christ, and warning us of the eternal consequences for building without that foundation.

Luke 6:47 "Everyone who comes to Me and **hears** My words and **acts** (poieo = does) on them, I will show you whom he is like:⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and **laid a foundation on the rock**; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,²⁰ **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,**

1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or **to fix their hope** on the uncertainty of riches, but **on God**, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.¹⁸ **Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works**, to be generous and ready to share,¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of **a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.**

- B. Christ's last words of this message are a warning of the eternal consequences to rejecting Him as Lord. How great is the house's ruin? Eternal wrath. Our obedience is not the

ground of our justification - Christ is, but is an inevitable expression of that faith by which Christ justifies us, saves us from wrath and for Himself.

Luke 6:49 "But the one who has **heard** and has **not acted** (poieo = done), is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and **the ruin of that house was great.**"

John 3:36 "He who **believes in the Son** has eternal life; but he who does not **obey the Son** will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Hebrews 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became **to all those who obey Him** the source of eternal salvation,

Conclusion

A. There is another word with which we can fill in the blank: To receive Jesus as Lord is to _____ Jesus. Love.

1. Jesus said ...

John 14:21 "**He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me**; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

2. If obeying Jesus as Lord makes Jesus seem like a hard task master to us, then something is missing in our hearts - love for Jesus, a love God creates in the hearts of all who are born again by God's indwelling Spirit.

B. Don't be deceived by a tradition within the evangelical church, teaching that Jesus can be received as Savior without receiving Him as Lord. No one with a regenerate heart who loves Jesus would live that way.

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and **not merely hearers who delude themselves.**

Matthew 7:21 "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.**"²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'²³ "**And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'**"

C. Scriptures teach something different, that we are saved by a faith that receives Christ for all that His Name reveals Him to be, by a faith that works through love. Speaking of justification, Paul writes:

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love**.

- D. God will not justify us by a compartmentalized faith in a compartmentalized Christ (“I’ll receive Jesus for this, but not for that.”), but rather by a faith that entrusts all that we are to all that He is. Are we conscious of a compartment of our lives that we are keeping for ourselves, of a practice of sin, of a relationship that we will not give up for Jesus? Is there any unwillingness to do what we know to be His will? Do we realize that this is because we are failing to believe, to trust in Him in this matter? Take a moment in silence now, bow and confess these things to Him from our hearts, calling on Him to deliver us from our sin, and to grant us a faith that continually receives Jesus our Savior - as Lord.