

Introduction

Our passage today concludes Jesus' sermon on the mount. Luke 7:1 starts with, "when He had completed all His discourse..." This was Jesus' closing thoughts. This was His closing argument. He left His listeners with a choice. He left His listeners with a decision. Are you going to act on the words that I have spoken to you? Are you going to be obedient to what I have called you to do?

(Luke 7:1) "When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum."

Donald has done an excellent job the last two weeks teaching on the Sermon on the Mount. He called it a radical teaching. He talked about radical love. It was not just loving our friends, but it was even loving your enemies. We are to do good even to those who hate us. We are to treat people in the same way that we want them to treat us.

This radical teaching also included judging and condemning others. We are to learn from our teacher, the Lord Jesus. He did not come to judge, but to save. Many people know John 3:16, but not many people know the verse right after it. Jesus said, "for God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Jesus did not come here to judge. He came here to save. Our goal should be to help others and save others, not to judge them.

(John 3:16-17) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. {17} For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

When we judge and condemn others, we do not offer them hope. We heap hopelessness and condemnation on them. We sentence them. We tell them that they will always be the way they are and they cannot change. That is not the message of the gospel. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul writes, "but such were some of you, but you were washed..." The gospel changes lives.

(1 Cor 6:11) "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

In Romans 12, Paul tells us that we are not to be conformed to the world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Condemnation says you can't and won't change. The Scriptures say that we can change and it tells us how we can be transformed – by the renewing of our minds.

I like what Solomon writes in Proverbs 4. He says the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day." We can change and we should be changing. We should be brighter and brighter every day. We should be more like Christ every day. Our job is not to judge and condemn people, but rather to help them become more like Christ. We have to take the log out of our own eyes so that we can help others overcome their struggles. We are not to judge, but to encourage and build up others. That was the radical teaching that Jesus wanted them to obey.

(Pro 4:18) "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day."

In our passage today, Jesus gives two specific reasons why we should obey His words. First, we should obey His word because He is Lord. Second, we should obey His word because it is the wise thing to do.

When a child is very young, we have to teach the child to obey because we say so. When Johnny is out by the road, we tell him to get away from the road. He does not need to understand; he just needs to get away from the road. There are dangers and we are protecting him. We are his parents and we know what is best. He needs to learn to obey because we are parents.

In the same way, Jesus Christ is Lord. We need to obey Him as Lord, whether we understand something or not. We should simply obey because He is Lord and He knows best.

But that does not work so well when Johnny is older. He wants to know why we are telling him not to do something. He wants understanding, and it is our job as parents to help him have understanding. It gives us an opportunity to share God's word with him, and help him grow in wisdom. When he sees and understands God's principles and His ways, he can then be obedient to what God has to say. He is being obedient because it is the wise thing to do.

Our passage today encompasses both of those thoughts. Jesus said that we should obey His words because He is Lord, and we are to obey His word because it is the wisest thing to do. Let's read our passage together.

(Luke 6:46-49) "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? {47} "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts 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. {49} "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, 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."

1. We Should Obey Jesus because He is Lord.

Jesus begins by asking a very pointed and difficult question. "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" He is really saying, if I am really Lord of your life, you will obey what I tell you to do.

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

How do we know what Jesus has said? How do we know what He is saying to us? The answer to these questions is we must spend time with the Lord. **We must spend time in His word.** The word of God is the primary way that God has spoken to us. It is not the only way, but it is one of the primary ways. You and I must spend time in His word. We must read the word. We must meditate on the word. We must study the word.

(Heb 1:1-2) "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, {2} in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."

But, **God speaks in many ways.** We need to spend time in prayer. Prayer is not just giving our list to the Lord. Part of prayer is being quiet before the Lord and listening to Him. Part of prayer is journaling and writing down the things that the Lord does speak to you. How does He speak to us? God gives thoughts, impressions, dreams, visions, pictures, physical sensations, and prophetic words. We need to be attentive. We also need to be run things by other mature believers, and through our spiritual authorities. We can all miss it at times, so it is important to be submitted to one another.

This is a short and easy verse, but it is a very difficult verse. It is difficult because when we hold back areas of our life from the Lord, we are really making a statement to Him that He is not Lord. We are telling Jesus that we are lord of our own life. When we live a totally surrendered life to Jesus, we are truly making Him Lord of our life.

I became a Christian in 1974, just before my Sophomore year at TCU. I knew that I was a sinner and when I came to a place of belief that God was real, I asked Christ to come into my life. I did not know how to grow in my walk, and it was not until I began to read God's word that my life began to change. In 1975, my Junior year, I was at a tournament in Huntsville, Texas. There was a brand new Pete Dye golf course there called Waterwood National. In my practice round there, I played pretty decent, and came within four shots of the course record at that time. It was the hardest golf course that I had ever seen or played.

They had one green that was a peninsula, and was surrounded by water on three sides. There were railroad ties supporting the elevated green. Then, in the middle of the green, there was a sand trap. The green was so hard that if the ball hit on the portion of green before the bunker, it would bounce in the bunker. If the ball landed on the back part of the green, over the bunker, it would bounce in the water. It was very unfair. They have since removed the bunker from the middle of the green.

They had another par three that was a 220-yard carry over part of Lake Livingston. The green was about forty yards long, but only about ten yards wide, so it was a very difficult green to hit. The whole golf course was difficult.

What made the course even more difficult for me in the first round is the Lord and I were wrestling. Even though I had received Christ into my life, golf was the lord of my life. My whole life centered around golf. My focus was golf. My passion was golf. My life was golf. If Karen wanted to spend time with me, she had to go out to Worth Hills where I hit shag balls or she would go to one of the local golf courses where I would work on my chipping and putting. But this week the Lord was dealing with me about surrendering my whole life to Him. He was dealing with me about making Him Lord of my life and not my golf game.

In that first round, we were wrestling. I shot a 91. I had not shot in the 90's since I was about eight or nine years old. I never shot in the 90's again. In fact, my last fifteen years as a professional golfer, I never even shot in the eighties. A bad round for me was between 72 and 76. Even at the 1993 San Diego Buick Open when over thirty PGA Tour players shot in the 90's the first round, I shot 76 and was in the top ten. It was blowing about 70 mph that day, and it was probably the hardest conditions I ever played in. But, in this particular round in college, I shot a 91. That round was not about score, it was a wrestling match. It was about surrender. It was that day that I surrendered my golf game to the Lord. I truly knew Jesus as Lord of every area of my life on that day. It was a monumental and pivotal point in my life.

That is the question that Jesus is putting forth today. Why do you call me Lord, and do not do what I say? Why do you call me Lord and hold back your golf game? Why do you call me Lord and hold back your finances and your tithes? Why do you call me Lord and watch things on TV that are not pleasing to Me? Why do you call Me Lord and speak evil of others or hold back forgiveness? God is wanting us to obey Him in every area of our lives. Jesus is wanting to be Lord of our lives.

In Matthew's parallel account, Jesus says, "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." He mentions those who call Him Lord, prophesy in His name, cast out demons, and perform miracles. Jesus says to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness." There are two points that Jesus is making. First, **when we call Him Lord, we must have relationship with Him**. We must know the Lord. Second, **when we call Him Lord, we must live uprightly**. If we call Him Lord, we must obey Him.

(Matt 7:21-23) "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 will enter. {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.'"

In Isaiah, the Lord says that an ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know, My people do not understand." If we are going to call Jesus Lord, we need to get to know Him. We must spend time with Him. We need to spend time in prayer. We need to spend time in worship. We need to spend time in His word. We must spend time in His presence. We need to be in His house, fellowshiping and worshipping Him. If we are going to call Him Lord, we must get to know Him.

(Is 1:3) "An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know, My people do not understand."

I like what Hosea says. He exhorts us to know and to press on to know the Lord. To know and to press on to know the Lord tells me that it requires effort. God wants us to press on to know Him. When things are not going your way, press on to know Him. When the pressure is on you, press on to know Him. Whether you are happy or sad, healthy or sick, press on to know the Lord. He will come to us. His goings are as certain as the dawn. He will not disappoint. He will reveal Himself to you.

(Hosea 6:3) "So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth."

Jeremiah 29:11 is a very familiar passage about God having plans for welfare for us. But, immediately after that verse, the Lord tells us that when we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him. **We must be intentional and seek the Lord**. We must press in to know the Lord.

(Jer 29:13) "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

I like what Paul writes. He said that he counted all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ. When Paul called Jesus Lord, he meant it. Paul pressed on to know the Lord. Knowing Christ was the most important thing in His life. Everything else was rubbish or loss in comparison to knowing Christ. **We must count all things as loss in comparison to knowing Christ.** Paul not only wanted to know Christ, he wanted to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. On that difficult day at Waterwood National, I had to learn that everything else in my life was loss in comparison to knowing Christ as Lord.

(Phil 3:7-10) “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. {8} More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, {9} and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, {10} that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;”

2. We Should Obey Jesus because it is wise.

The second reason that the Lord tells us to obey Him is because it is the wise thing to do. Jesus gives an example of what it is like. He says that those who hear His words and act on them are like a man building a house, who dug a deep foundation on the rock. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm. But, the house built on the ground without a foundation collapsed.

(Luke 6:47-49) “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts 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. {49} "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, 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.”

In Matthew’s account, he records that Jesus compared it to a wise man who built his house on the rock. That is why I said that obeying Jesus is the wise thing to do.

(Matt 7:24-27) “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock....{26} "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand....”

I would like to talk about this foundation for just a minute. When we act upon Jesus’ words, when we obey Jesus, we are building on a solid foundation. This foundation is important so I want to look at foundations for just a minute.

Foundations fall into two general classifications, spread and deep. A common type of spread foundation is the footing, a slab, block, or pedestal that forms an enlargement of the bottom of an individual pier or bearing wall and distributes the load to a broader area of the underlying material.

A second type of spread foundation is the mat or raft foundation, is used for heavier, more widely distributed loads. It consists of a number of footings combined into a single, thick reinforced concrete slab beneath the entire structure. A third kind of spread foundation, which is used in soils that may settle or slide, is the floating foundation, a boxlike underground construction with a weight equal to or slightly exceeding that of the excavated soil.

There are two principal types of deep foundations, piles and caissons. Piles, which can be made of timber, concrete, or steel, are driven by hammers into the ground. End-bearing piles are sunk to the bearing stratum (the depth at which soil resistance can support the weight of the structure), or sometimes bedrock. Friction piles, which are rough-surfaced and tapered, transfer their load to the adjacent soil along the length of the pile through friction and adhesion. Caissons, which are hollow boxlike or cylindrical structures, are used in excavating down to the bearing stratum and ultimately become part of the completed foundation.

The tallest building in the world from 1931 until 1972 was the Empire State Building. It's foundation was 55 feet deep.

In 1972 the first tower of the World Trade Center was opened and it became the tallest building in the world. Aside from withstanding enormous wind loads, the World Trade Center towers were also constructed to withstand settlement loads. Because the towers were built on six acres of landfill, the foundation of each tower had to extend more than 70 feet below ground level to rest on solid bedrock.

In 1974 the Sears Tower was built and it became the tallest building in the world. Starting with a hole 100 feet deep, builders laid the foundation of 200 circular caissons set into the bedrock.

Paul said that as a wise master builder he laid a foundation. Just as the builders of these tall buildings laid careful foundations, Paul said that he was a wise master builder and laid a careful foundation. Paul makes it very clear that **the foundation of the building is Jesus Christ**.

(1 Cor 3:10-11) "According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. {11} For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Paul was merely restating what Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 16:18. He said, "Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."

(Mat 16:18) "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."

Jesus first asks the disciples who people say that He is. Then, He asks them who do they say He is. Next, He tells them that flesh and blood did not reveal this, but the Father who is in heaven. Then He tells them that He is going to build His church on “this rock.”

(Mat 16:13-20) "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" {14} And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." {15} He said^ to them, "But who do you say that I am?" {16} And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." {17} And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. {18} "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. {19} "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." {20} Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ."

Isaiah prophesied about this rock and foundation. The Lord God said, “behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly place. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.” Peter also quotes Isaiah and expounds on the application of the verse: we must believe and accept this rock.

(Isa 28:16) "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed."

(1 Pet 2:6-8) "For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." {7} This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," {8} and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed."

Therefore, this rock that Jesus refers to is not Peter, as the Catholic church believes. This rock is not referring to “revelation” that some pentecostal churches believe. This rock or foundation is Jesus Christ. The revelation that Peter had was that Jesus was the Messiah or Christ. This is exactly what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 3, that the only foundation is Jesus Christ. **Jesus Christ is the foundation of our individual lives and He is the foundation of the church**, the assembly of the individual believers. When the foundation of our faith is in Christ, we can stand up in all the storms. Jesus said that there is a foundation that He has laid that all the forces in hell cannot come against. It is a solid foundation. It is a sure foundation. It is a tried stone, a precious cornerstone.

Some of the forces that try to come against this foundation come in the way of cults. Paul mentions in Ephesians 4 that one of these winds is doctrine. When the church is mature in their faith, set firmly on the foundation of Christ, these winds of doctrine cannot come against it.

(Eph 4:14) "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;"

When we first planted this church, we had a couple visit our church. At our fellowship luncheon, I sat with them, and my spiritual antennas were in discernment mode. I discerned that they were part of a cult called "The Way." What makes someone a cult is whether they believe in the deity of Jesus Christ. The Way does not accept the deity of Christ or the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are very clear about who Jesus Christ is. He is the I AM. He is the Creator of all things. He is the Word. He is God. He is the Savior. He and the Father are One. This question that Jesus asks is very important to our salvation. Their winds of doctrine have tried to weaken the very foundation of our faith.

Notice what John says in 1 John 2:22. He says the liar is the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ. This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. One of the ways that John gives us to discern the true from the false is what they say about Jesus. Later on in 1 John 4, he tells us to test the spirits to see whether they are from God. We are not to believe every Spirit; we must test them. What is the test? The test is what they say about Jesus. If they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is true.

(1 John 2:22) "Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son."

(1 John 4:1-3) "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. {2} By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; {3} and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world."

Jesus tells us that there will be storms that come against us. The house or life that is built on the rock will withstand the storms of life. The life that is not built on a good foundation will crumble in the storms of life.

In Psalm 11, David asks a good question. He says, "if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The key is to build our foundation on Christ, because nothing can destroy the foundation of Christ. The gates of hell cannot destroy the foundation of Christ. He is going to build His church on this foundation and nothing can destroy it.

(Ps 11:3) “If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

The foundation of the church is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. He is the Messiah. He is God with us. He is the anointed one. He was anointed for the purpose of bringing people out of the dark and into the light.

The real question is not to others, but to each of us. Who do I say that Jesus is? What do I believe about Jesus? Has He become my Messiah or Christ? Do I know Christ? Is my life being built on the foundation of Christ?

Conclusion

Why should we obey the Lord? We should obey Him because He is Lord. Since He is Lord, should first and foremost get to know Him. God wants to have fellowship with us and for us to get to know Him. He wants us to spend time with Him. Second, He wants us to know His ways and to walk in His ways. He wants us to live uprightly. He is a holy God and He wants us to live holy lives.

Second, we should obey Jesus because it is the wise thing to do. He is not just Lord; He is our rock. He is our foundation. Our lives need to be built upon His word. He wants us to be overcomers. He wants us to be strong. He wants us to withstand the storms that we face in life. This requires that we build our lives on Christ, the solid rock.

This morning, do you know the Lord? Have you come into a relationship with Christ? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and have you confessed Jesus as Lord? Paul wrote that if we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. For, it is with the heart that we believe, which results in righteousness. And, it is with the mouth that we confess Jesus as Lord, which results in salvation. Do you believe and have you confessed Jesus as Lord. This morning, if you have never confessed Jesus as Lord, I want to give you an opportunity to do that.

(Rom 10:9-10) “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; {10} for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Simply pray this prayer with me. “Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that God, the Father, raised You from the dead. I now surrender my life to You. I confess You to be Lord and Master of my life. I give you control of my life. I ask You to come into my life and forgive me of my sins. Jesus, thank You for my salvation. Amen.

I also want to talk to another group of you. You have asked Christ into your life, but you may be like I was before Waterwood National. You are riding the fence. You have one foot in the world and one foot in the church. You are double-minded. You are being tossed and driven by the waves and the wind. The storms are coming at you. What is your foundation? What are you trusting in? Have you made Jesus Christ the cornerstone and foundation of your life? God is wanting you to put your trust in Him and in Him alone. No other foundation will hold up. Your foundation must be Christ.

(James 1:6-8) “But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. {7} For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, {8} being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Some of you may have areas of your life that you have been unwilling to trust God. You have areas of your life that you have held back from the Lord. It may be unbelief. It may be pride. It may be stubbornness. Whatever the area or cause, God is speaking to you today to surrender it all. He wants to be Lord of Your life. He wants you to do what He says.

If that is you this morning, I want you to do business with God. I want to encourage you to pray with me this morning. “Lord, I am sorry that I have called You Lord, but I have not been doing what You say. Forgive me. Cleanse me. Lord, I want to give You every area of my life this morning. Lord, I present myself as a living and holy sacrifice this morning. Use me however you wish. I am Your servant. I confess You to be Lord of my life. I want to build my house on the rock. I want to build my life on Your word, Your foundation. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Introduction (Luke 7:1, Luke 6:46-49)

1. We Should Obey Jesus because He is Lord. (Luke 6:46)

- We must spend time in His _____.
- God speaks in _____ . (Heb 1:1-2)
- When we call Him Lord, we must have _____ with Him. (Matt 7:21-23, Is 1:3)
- When we call Him Lord, we must live _____. (Matt 7:21-23)
- We must be _____ and _____ the Lord. (Hos 6:3, Jer 29:13)
- We must count all things as loss in comparison to _____ Christ. (Phil 3:7-10)

2. We Should Obey Jesus because it is wise. (Luke 6:47-49, Matt 7:24-27)

- The foundation of the building is _____. (Mat 16:13-20, Is 28:16, 1 Pet 2:6-8, 1 Cor 3:10-11)
- Jesus Christ is the foundation of our _____ lives and the foundation of the _____. (Eph 4:14, 1 John 2:22, 4:1-3, Ps 11:3)

Conclusion (Rom 10:9-10, James 1:6-8)

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