

## Marks of a True Disciple

# The Consistency of the Disciple

### *When Following Christ Is Proven in Life*

#### Luke 6:46-49

The things we have studied on discipleship have shown us:

- how it begins...
- what it requires...
- what it produces...
- and what it sends us to do

But all of that now brings us to one final question: "Is this truly real in my life?"

The reality of discipleship is not proven by what we say about Christ... but by whether we do what He says.

It is possible to hear all of these things... understand them... even agree with them... — and yet never truly live them.

It is possible to say the right words... to make the right profession... to appear to follow Christ... — and yet lack the one thing that proves it all: Consistency.

That is what the Lord emphasizes in the passage before us. In Luke chapter 6, He brings everything down to one simple, searching issue: not what a man says... but what a man does.

In these verses, the Lord draws a clear distinction between two kinds of people:

- those who hear and do
- and those who hear and do not

As we come to this final message on discipleship and the marks of a true disciple, I want us to consider:

The Consistency of the Disciple — When following Christ is proven in life.

I. A CONFRONTING QUESTION — V. 46

A. The claim that is made — “Lord, Lord”

1. To call Jesus “Lord” is to acknowledge His authority; confess His position; and recognize His right to rule.
2. The repetition — “Lord, Lord” — intensifies it. These are not people who deny Christ... these are people who profess Christ.

B. The contradiction that is exposed — “and do not the things which I say?”

1. The problem was, and is, a disconnect between what is said and what is done.
2. To refuse to do what He says is to live as though His authority doesn’t matter; His commands are optional; His Word is not binding.

C. The seriousness of this contradiction

1. Jesus is showing us that a profession of lordship without obedience is empty. The same language, same issue, and same warning is found in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 7:21

<sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

2. There are those who say the right things; use the

right language; and appear to follow Christ, but their life does not match their profession.

#### D. The danger revealed

This exposes the possibility that a person can be familiar with truth, comfortable with Christ, and confident in their profession, and yet not truly be a disciple.

- Because every one of us must face this honestly: Is Christ truly Lord of my life? Or is He only Lord in my words?

### II. A DEFINING COMPARISON — VV. 47

Jesus shows what distinguishes a true disciple from a false one.

#### A. The completeness of the response

There are three parts given here that show a complete response to Christ.

1. "Cometh to me" — speaks of a personal relationship with Christ. This involves turning from self, placing faith in Him, and drawing near to him personally.

John 6:37

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

2. "Heareth my sayings" — speaks of exposure to and reception of His Word. A true disciple is one who listens to Christ, receives His Word, and places Himself under His teaching.

Romans 10:17

<sup>17</sup> So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by

| the word of God.

3. "Doeth them" — this is the defining mark. A true disciple is one who is characterized by a life that seeks to do what Christ has said.

#### **B. The order is important**

You can't reverse the order.

1. You cannot obey without hearing
2. You cannot truly hear without coming
3. And coming without doing reveals something is missing

#### **C. The distinction this creates**

This defines the difference between profession and possession.

#### **D. The implication for us**

It's not enough to say, "I have come..." or "I have heard." The question is, "Am I doing what Christ said?"

### **III. A SURE FOUNDATION — V. 48**

*"He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock..."*

The Lord gives an illustration of what the life of a true disciple is like.

#### **A. The picture given — "a man which built an house"**

Both men in this passage are building. This illustrates that every life is being built — no one is standing still.

## **B. The preparation described — “and digged deep”**

1. This man does not build quickly nor superficially. He digs deep. This speaks of effort, of seriousness, and of intentionality. It's not the easiest path, but it is the necessary one.
2. Applied to discipleship, this is more than surface-level Christianity. This is a life that deals with the heart and the will.

### **Psalm 1:2–3**

<sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

3. The foundation determines everything. The “rock” typifies a life grounded in obedience to the Word of Christ.

## **C. The testing revealed — “and when the flood arose...”**

1. This represents trials, difficulties, pressures of life, and ultimately, even judgment.
2. The issue is not whether storms come... the issue is what happens when they do.

## **D. The result declared — “it could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock”**

1. The house stood because the foundation was sure.
2. This is the life of the true disciple. It isn't a life

free from trouble... it is a life that stands in the trouble, because it is built on Christ and His Word.

#### **E. The implication for us**

A life that comes to Christ, hears His Word, and does what He says is a life that will stand because its foundation is right.

### **IV. A REVEALING COLLAPSE — V. 49**

The Lord now presents the second man. There is a striking similarity between the two — “But he that heareth...” This man hears the same truth, is exposed to the same words, sits under the same teaching, and has the same opportunity. Outwardly, there may be very little difference if it were not for this defining statement: “and doeth not.”

#### **A. The critical difference**

The difference is found in what they did with what they heard. One obeyed... the other did not.

#### **B. The foundation neglected — “is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth”**

1. This man builds too. He is not inactive... he is not indifferent... He is building a life too. But he builds without depth, without foundation, and without obedience.
2. He builds on what is easy, convenient, and that requires no digging.

#### **C. The testing comes — “against which the stream did beat vehemently”**

Just like the first man, the storm comes. It had the same pressure and the same testing. The storm exposed the difference between the two.

**D. The result is immediate — “and immediately it fell”**

1. There was no stability, no resistance, no endurance — it simply collapses.
2. When there is no foundation, there is nothing to hold.

**E. The ruin is total — “and the ruin of that house was great”**

1. This is not partial damage — this is complete destruction.
2. Everything that was built... everything that was stable... everything that may have looked right... is gone.
3. A life built on hearing without obedience will not stand.

**F. The seriousness of this warning**

1. This isn't just about difficult seasons in life. It ultimately points to standing before God.
2. A life that has heard truth or exposed to truth but never submitted to it, will not stand.

**G. The implication for us**

Both men heard the same words and had the same opportunity, but one stood... and one fell.

The question, then, is not “What have heard? Or

What do I know?" The question is, "What have I done with what Christ has said?"

Conclusion:

In this passage, the Lord Jesus has brought everything down to one simple, searching truth:

- Two men...
- Two houses...
- Two lives...

They both heard the same words... but one did them... and one did not.

Over the course of this series, we have considered what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We have seen:

- His call...
- The cost...
- The continuance...
- The love...
- The character...
- The conduct...
- The commission...

But now it all comes to this: Is it real in my life?

Discipleship is not proven by:

- what we have heard...
- what we understand...
- or even what we say...

It is proven by whether we do what Christ has said.

The Lord's question still stands: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord... and do not the things which I say?" This is a question no one else but you can answer.

And one day, the storm will come. Whether in:

- the trials of life...
- the pressures of this world...
- or ultimately standing before God...

What has been built will be tested. And in that moment...

It will not matter what we intended...

It will not matter what we knew...

It will matter what we did with what Christ said.

So, the question this morning is not complicated:

- Have I truly come to Christ?
- Am I hearing His Word?
- And is my life marked by doing what He says?

Because that is the difference between a life that stands... and a life that falls.

And as you go forward from here...

what matters most is not:

- who stands behind this pulpit...
- or what has been familiar...

What matters is this:

That your life is built on Christ... and on obedience to His Word.

Because that is the only foundation that will stand.