

Questions Jesus Asked, Part Thirteen

Luke 6:27-37

1. Love.

2. Mercy.

3. Produce fruit.

4. Solid Foundation.

love.learn.live.

westvalleychurch.com



West Valley Church
September 5, 2021
Casey Wilkerson

Questions Jesus Asked, Part Thirteen

Luke 6:46-37

Our question for today comes from Luke's Gospel. Luke chapter 6 is where we find Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the middle of his teaching, Jesus asks this question, in verse 46, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" So what did Jesus say? That is what we will read together in a minute, starting with Luke 6:27. As I read, remember, these are Jesus' words, all of them. His words to a crowd then and to us today. Imagine, hearing about this man named Jesus. The Messiah. People say he's the Son of God. I've heard other say he's been healing many, he's the one who has come to save us. So you've come to hear it for yourself. I'm going to read a little slower than usual so we can let His words sink in. Let's stand and hear Jesus words, His challenge to all of us today in Luke 6:27-37...

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

There is a lot in this passage, and it's just a part of his Sermon on the Mount. I would challenge you to go back and read it again later today and this week. See what stands out then, but for now let's go back to the beginning. Jesus later asked, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say?" So let's focus on a few things we need to "DO" because it's what Jesus said.

1. **Love**.

There is a higher standard of love when it comes to God's Kingdom. Praying for and doing good to those who mistreat us, saying good things to people who say bad things about us, may be a stretch for us but to say that we deeply love our enemies, that's more than a stretch. Your first thought might be, "I can't do that" and you know what? You are right. You

probably can't do a lot of what Jesus says we should do – on your own. Jesus doesn't expect us to do it on our own. God gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort us, guide us, and help us to be obedient and do what Jesus says to do. God gives us a church family to pray for each other and encourage each other along the way. Jesus didn't say to tolerate our enemies. Love them. You might think you don't have enemies, or people don't hate you. In this world, in our country, in our city, there are enemies and hate everywhere; Jesus calls us to answer the hate with love.

Verse 32-34 have repetitive questions and answers to reveal the importance of extending love beyond the circle of those who are already doing good to one another. Loving others, doing good to others, and lending to others. If you do those things but only to others who can do them back, even sinners do that. We don't stand out as followers of Jesus by loving those who love us back, by helping those who can help us back.

Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. (Luke 6:35)

We are God's children, and we are to love our enemies. You know how God sees our enemies and the people we don't like? His children. His heart breaks when they make bad choices, just like his heart breaks when we make bad choices. When we stop viewing people as enemies (ours or someone else's), and instead, view them as God's children, it'll be easier to love them. Nobody will look at you and see Jesus in you because you love those who love you back. People will see Jesus in us when we love our enemies and when we love people our world says are unlovable. Jesus said to love, he also said to show:

2. **"Mercy".**

Genuine love is expressed in showing mercy. Mercy is the willingness to extend kindness and grace to those who don't deserve it. Mercy is reflected in a non-judgmental non-condemning approach toward others, but it doesn't mean we ignore and excuse wrongdoing. Jesus doesn't. The world tells us showing mercy is showing weakness. But it's easier to condemn than it is to extend mercy, so showing mercy is actually a demonstration of strength.

We are lucky that God shows us mercy. Mercy allows forgiveness to be possible and the capability to forgive others. If we want God to be merciful to us as sinners, we must be merciful toward those who sin against us. In the last part of Jesus' sermon, he shares why what we do matters when we follow Him. This is the difference our actions make in this world. This is how people see Jesus in us. Will you stand with me again as we read another section of Jesus' sermon and his question in Luke 6:43. Again, these are all His words:

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” (Luke 6:43-49)

We have to be willing to do what Jesus says. When we do what Jesus says, we...

3. Produce fruit.

Good people are recognized by the good things that come out of the good that is in their hearts. If you have evil in your heart, it will show up as clearly as bad fruit will on a bad tree. What's in a person's heart will be revealed in that person's speech and activity. If you want to transform your behavior it begins with the transformation of your heart. Jesus is the one who transforms our heart.

When we commit to following Him, we invite him into our heart, we confess our sin to Him, he forgives us of our sins and gives us a fresh new start, new life, or a new heart. It's God's gift to us, all of us. A changed heart will then affect our actions. Trees are recognized by the fruit they produce. Followers of Jesus will be recognized by our own fruit too, our actions and our words.

A priest named John Nolland wrote this, “Whether one likes it or not, what one produces is finally a product of what one is.” Whether you like it or not, your words and actions reflect who you are. If that bothers you, know that God loves you no matter what. He wants to cleanse your heart so that your words and actions reflect Jesus.

Last week I shared this point, I want to share again:

Read God's Word, Know God's Will.

It's important for us to read about Jesus so we know what he wants us to do. But knowing what to do isn't enough. Bearing fruit means we know what to do, and do it. Jesus asked the question, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say?” He was not just concerned that the crowds hear his message, but that people hear his words and put them into practice.

In verse 47 Jesus answers his question with 3 important areas to focus on: come, hear, do.

As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. (Luke 6:47)

Come, hear, do. It's good that we “come” to Jesus, like the crowd did. He wants us to come. It's good that we come to church. If you got dragged to church, it's good you're here, good for us all to come. But don't just come, next is to hear. Online, in person, when we read God's word at home, it's important to hear God's Word. Don't just come and hear, but do. Put His words into practice.

Jesus wrapped up his message by comparing those who listen and obey to a builder who builds his house on the rock. If we come to Jesus, hear Him, and put his words into practice, then we are building the...

4. Solid Foundation.

...we need to get through the storms in life. We do not choose whether we will face severe storms in life, we only get to choose the foundation on which we will stand, through those storms. Jesus invites us to make his Word our foundation. Not just hearing it though. Jesus said the solid foundation is for everyone who “comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.”

Know why most people don't love their enemies? Why most people don't love those who hate them back? Not because we can't, like I said earlier; God will help us do what we think we can't do. We don't love our enemies because we don't want to. We don't want to love the people who mistreat us or cause us pain. We don't want to love the people who hurt us or hate us. We don't do what Jesus says, because we don't want to. You've now heard what Jesus said, not just to the crowd on the mountain, but his words are to us today. If we call Him Lord, we will do what he says.

Prayer

Will you stand with me? Sometimes, I'll get told “good sermon” after I preach. Not a whole lot, but sometimes. Do you think people told Jesus after his sermon on the mount, “good sermon”? He knows it was good, He's Jesus. I think a good sermon will cause you to think and act. So think about the Sermon on the Mount today. Go and look for ways to do what you've heard Jesus say. I guess we'll find out if the sermon was good or not.