

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#14 - Listening to God's Word Luke 6:37-49

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

14-1 The Measure we Use

14-3 Good or Bad Fruit

14-2 The plank in your own eye

14-4 The house built on rock or sand

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
Who are the people who are blessed? Who has already received their reward?
How are we to treat others? Who are we to love?
- **Big Question Review:** What is the level of righteousness Jesus has called us to?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 6:27-28, 31
We are to treat others the way we want to be treated.

²⁷But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸(bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.)

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

This lesson is a continuation of the sermon Jesus was giving to the people in the last lesson. After Jesus told them to love their enemies and how they should respond to people, he taught them more.

Luke 6:37-38 – Don't judge others. (picture 14-1)

³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

What two things is Jesus saying not to do? Judge and condemn others

Why are we not to do these things? So we won't be judged and condemned.

What does it mean to judge? A judge sits in a court and determines whether a person is guilty or innocent, based on the evidence. Once the person is judged then a penalty is given. If we judge others, we think we have authority over them that we haven't been given by God. We are not the ones to determine guilt.

What is the difference between judgment and discernment? Discernment is recognizing what is good or bad, the outcome of actions. To be wise you have to have discernment. You have to know what are good and bad things to do. Judgment is looking down on others and thinking you are better than they are and are in a position to judge them for their actions. We can say that an action is bad or wrong without judging the person and saying that they are bad.

What does it mean to condemn? To condemn means to pronounce a person guilty and worthy of punishment. Who is the only one who can condemn someone who has done wrong? One who has authority, e.g. God or a judge in a court of law

What two things does Jesus command us to do? forgive and give to others

Why are we to do those things? What we do to others will determine what will be done for us by God. If we don't forgive we won't be forgiven. If we aren't generous in our giving to others, God won't be generous towards us.

How are we to give? Generously What does that mean? We aren't stingy. We think about what people need and what we can do to meet their needs. We don't withhold from others in order to hold onto things for ourselves. Giving generously shows we are grateful to God and trust him to provide what we need.

Luke 6:41-42 – Take the plank out of your own eye. (picture 14-2)

⁴¹"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴²How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypo

crite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

What is the difference between a plank and a speck of sawdust? A plank is huge and can be seen by everyone. A speck is tiny and is something you need a magnifying glass to remove.

What is Jesus telling us to do? Examine our own lives and uncover our own sin before we criticize or try to expose what someone else is doing wrong.

Whose sin do we usually see more clearly? Other people's Why is that? We can see it more easily because we focus more on what other people are doing wrong. We resist seeing our own sin. We like to think of ourselves as being better than we really are.

What is a hypocrite? Someone who pretends to be good when he really isn't good.

Luke 6:43-45 – Good or Bad Fruit (picture 14-3)

⁴³No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

What are these verses saying? You can tell what someone is like by the fruit he produces, the things he says and does and the outcome of his life.

Where does good come from? From what a person stores up inside him, his heart. What is in the heart is determined by what one holds on to and believes. Good comes from a connection to Jesus.

Where does evil come from? It comes from the heart like good does. The difference is our nature tends towards what is evil.

What is evil? Anything that falls short of God's good design and the things he desires. It is anything that is in opposition to God. Evil is a corruption of what is good. It is anything that hurts someone or something.

Who has an evil heart? Everyone does. It is what a person is born with because of the Fall. We all start with a sin nature that has to be dealt with and changed.

How is a heart made good? Devoting oneself to Jesus, seeing and repenting from sin and letting Jesus cleanse and work in you. Seeking after God and what he wants.

How do you know what lies in your heart? Examine the words you say and the deeds you do, the fruit of your life. Ask Jesus to show you; ask for conviction of sin. Don't focus on or compare yourself to others.

Luke 6:46-49 – The house built on the rock (picture 14-4)

⁴⁶"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸He is 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. ⁴⁹But 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."

What does the wise man do in terms of Jesus' teaching? Listens and then does what he has been taught. He applies what is learned.

Why is that like building on a rock? A house has to be anchored to something solid to withstand storms and be secure. Understanding and acting upon God's word will enable us to live it out during hard times. It will keep us from falling apart when life isn't going well. What does the foolish man do in terms of Jesus' teaching? He doesn't do what he has been taught.

Why is that like building on sand? A house built on sand has no stability because it isn't secured to anything solid. Sand is easily washed away and whatever is built on it will collapse. If we don't believe Jesus and his truth, we will believe ideas that won't support us in bad times. We will fall into the trap of the devil.

How do you know what a person's life is built on? You examine the outcome of the person's life, the result of what they believe and follow. You look at the fruit. This parable needs to be applied in our lives. The three "L's" will help us remember to do that. (Write the three L words on the board as you go over this.)

1. Love – Commit yourself to following Jesus. That means you must love him with all your heart.
2. Learn – Learn from Jesus. You commit to learning from him. That means you read and study the Bible daily. He becomes your teacher; you are his disciple. You love him with all your mind. His truth is what fills your thoughts.
3. Live – Live out the truth by the power of Christ in you. Live out in your life what you have learned from him. Uncover and turn from that which is not of him. Look at the plank in your own eye and take it out. Produce good fruit from a good heart. You love him with your will and strength, the things you choose to do and say.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Why are we not to judge others? Why are we to forgive and give to others? Who will a student be like? What does that mean? What are we to do before we try to take a speck of sawdust out of someone else's eye? What does that mean? What is a tree recognized by? What does that mean in terms of people? What does the wise man do with Jesus' teaching? What does the foolish man do with Jesus' teaching?

- **Thought Questions:** What truth do you most need to hear and apply in your life? What does your life show you about what you believe and follow?
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus that he teaches you what is right and good and that if you follow him your life will please him and go well. Pray for a desire to follow the truth and examine your own life, instead of looking at what others are doing wrong. Pray that you would give yourself completely to Jesus and produce good fruit.
- **The Big Question: What makes a person wise?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Matthew 7:24-25**
A wise man listens to Jesus and puts his teaching into practice.

²⁴Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Jesus said that those who listen to his teaching and put it into practice are like a wise man who built his house on a rock.

1. We are not to judge or condemn others but are to examine our own lives and deal with our own sin.
2. A person will be like his teacher, whoever or whatever he listens to and follows.
3. Just like a tree is recognized by the type of fruit it produces, a good man bears good fruit and an evil man bears evil fruit.

Why do I need to know this? I need to understand that the outcome of my life will be determined by who I learn from and what I build on. If I build on and live out the teachings of Jesus, I will bear good fruit and my life will be secure. I won't be brought down by trials and tribulations.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.

★ **Activity Page:** Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Fill out the crossword puzzle with words from the lesson.

Fruit – What a person produces in his life

Rock – What the wise man builds on

Sand – What the foolish man builds on

Forgive – What we are to do to others when we are offended

Plank – What we should take out of our own eye

Sawdust – What is in the eye of someone else

Heart – What the mouth speaks from

Teacher – Who a student will be like

Pit – What a blind man leads someone into

Blessed – What will happen to us when we give to others

★ **Further Understanding:** Bible Study Skills

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Romans 16:17-19 – Be wise about what is good

¹⁷I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

¹⁸For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. ¹⁹Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

Discussion Questions: What does it mean to be wise about what is good? What does it mean to be innocent about what is evil? How are people led astray?

The daily journal inside the booklet has six readings that relate to a theme. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Journal Focus: Why should we study God's Word?

Reading 1: Proverbs 2:1-11 God's Word gives us understanding of God. How do we understand the fear of the Lord and find knowledge of God? Why is it important to do that? What is the fear of the Lord? What is the knowledge of God?

Reading 2: Proverbs 3:1-8 God's Word teaches us to shun evil. Where should God's commands be kept? How is that done? What does verse 5 mean? What happens when we are wise in our own eyes?

Reading 3: Proverbs 3:13-20 God's Word is the way to wisdom. Why is wisdom more valuable than silver, gold or precious jewels? What does that mean you should focus on in your life? What will happen if you do that?

Reading 4: Proverbs 3:21-26 God's Word leads us in safety. What is discernment? What does it mean to preserve sound judgment and discernment? What will be the result of doing that?

Reading 5: Proverbs 4:20-27 God's Word brings life. What will God's words do for a person? What are we to do above all else? (vs. 23) What does that mean? How do we do that?

Reading 6: Psalm 19:7-11 God's Word revives our souls. What does God's word do for a person? What is the result of the following: Our soul being revived? Being made wise? Having joy in our hearts? Having light for our eyes? Why can't anything other than God do these things for us?