

Luke 6:37-49

The most important question we will ever answer is “Am I truly a disciple of Jesus Christ?” We have dumbed down the gospel to the point that there are hosts of people who think they are going to heaven, but are, in reality, far from Christ!

Jesus Himself said, strive to enter the narrow door (Luke 13:24).

1. John Bunyan said this, “*Therefore, when he says strive, it is as much as to say, ‘Run for heaven, labor for heaven, wrestle for heaven, or you are likely to go without it.’ People are prone to think they can get into heaven by lying, as it were, on their elbows.*”

2. 1 Cor 9:24-25 *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

3. 1 Tim 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*

Are you running for heaven? Laboring? Wrestling? Or are you trying to coast in by claiming one thing with your lips that your life does not reflect. Are you a real disciple of Jesus Christ?

There are 4 questions we can ask ourselves from this passage of Scripture that will help us determine if we are truly His disciples.

I. Am I authentic and gracious?

37 *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”*

1. What many people in our culture hear in this text is “Do not judge.”
2. In other words, no one has any right to call sin, sin or to call sinners to repent.
3. That is not what Jesus is conveying here.
4. Taken together he is saying, do not judge, do not condemn, but give grace.
5. **Do not set a standard for others that you are unwilling to be measured by.**
6. Don’t be a judgmental hypocrite, but a gracious guide who operates with integrity.

39 *And He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*

1. Avoid hypocrisy! A blind man can’t effectively lead another blind man to safety!
2. Be careful about following hypocritical teachers...you will become like him.

41 *Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.*

1. Don’t go around pointing out your brother’s flaw without dealing with your own flaws.
2. *It is easier to cry against 1000 sins in others than to put to kill one of your own!* John Flavel
3. Don’t be a hypocrite! Fight your own sin so that you can then help your brother with his sin

Don’t be a hypocrite. Be authentic and gracious. Are you?

II. Am I bearing fruit? v43-45

43 For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. 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.

1. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good!
 - a. How can we store up good in our hearts?
 - b. That is absolutely key! A good person produces good OUT OF the good stored up in his heart.
 - c. If we are going to be authentic and produce good fruit, we must store up good in our hearts!

2. This will be two fold: The Spirit and the Word

a. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 *But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*

1. Spirit
2. Faith in the Truth (the Word of God)

- b. It is a matter of the heart. A heart change

3. Galatians 5:19-24 *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

- a. These good things are produced by the good treasure we have stored in our hearts.
- b. The Spirit applying the Word to our lives.

III. Am I living a Christ-like life? v46

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

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 will enter."*

Salvation is a daily walk, a present tense faith, an ongoing personal relationship with Jesus that lasts for eternity.

1. In this group is everyone who has professed Christ as Lord
2. But everyone in this group will not see the Kingdom of Heaven
3. So what did their profession guarantee? Nothing! In fact, there is maybe nothing more blasphemous than saying "Lord Lord" and then not doing what He says.
4. What got them something was the fact that they called Him Lord and lived like He was Lord

The difference is not hearing, but doing!

1. We do what we do because we are what we are.
2. What you are practicing says a great deal about where you stand with God.
3. 1 John 2:3-4 *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him*
 - a. Is your life characterized by sin or by righteousness?
 - b. Actions speak louder than words.
4. Matthew 21:28-31

Rom 2:13 *For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified*

IV. Am I persevering in the faith? v47-49

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. In this parable we see two men building on two foundations with two outcomes
2. One life survives judgment. One does not.
 - a. The real proof of our faith is not whether or not we made a decision to build
 - b. The real proof of our faith is that we stand...persevere...and finish strong!
3. Those who are truly born again will persevere, they will stand, and they will finish strong.
 - a. 1 John 2:19 *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*
 - b. 1 John 2:24 *Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father*
4. Examine your perseverance
 - a. Are you pressing forward in Christ? He makes it clear that we must!
 - b. Luke 9:62 *"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
 - c. Luke 14:28-30 *For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'*

Conclusion:

1. Am I authentic and gracious?
2. Am I bearing fruit?
3. Am I living a Christ-like life?
4. Am I persevering in the faith?

GOSPEL