

The Foundation

Luke 9:46-49

Sermon by: Stephen Herrod, Pastor

MESSAGE:

THE FOUNDATION

PASSAGE: LUKE 6:46-49 ESV

46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message is to lead the audience to reflect on the authenticity of their Christian faith, particularly the disconnect between calling Jesus “Lord” and failing to live according to His teachings. It challenges believers to examine their hearts and repents, acknowledging that faith is a lifestyle, not just words. God’s grace extends an invitation to rebuild on the solid foundation of Christ. Ultimately, the message urges believers to live authentically, reflecting Jesus in both word and deed.

SERMON NOTES

The heart of today’s message is centered around this question that Jesus Himself asked: Why do you call me “Lord, Lord,” and not do what I say? This question confronts you directly and invites you to reflect on your own life. Why do you, who claim to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, often fail to regard, obey, and hence live out His teachings? Why do you profess Jesus as Lord with your lips, but not with your life?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," and yet refuse to forgive others as you have been forgiven?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," and not love your neighbor as yourself?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," and let your anger lead you into sin?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," and yet you're controlled by money?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," and yet you lack compassion for the suffering around you?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," but fail to treat others the way you want to be treated?

Why do you call Him “Lord, Lord,” but return evil for evil?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," but refuse to take up your cross and follow Him?

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Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," but fail to be generous to those in need?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," but prioritize your own comfort over serving others?

Why do you call him Lord, Lord, but you don't share the gospel with anybody?

Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," while gossiping about people instead of praying for them?

Do you understand the implications of calling Him "Lord" and not doing what He says?

Do you understand the impact this has on your life, your faith, and your family?

Do you understand the implications this has on the next generation?

Here it is: You are denying your own faith when you call Jesus the Christ "Lord, Lord," but don't do what He says!

Your kids and grandkids are watching, and they see how you act one way in church and another way at home or around others.

Your family who is not saved, those who are at home right now while you are at church, see how you act one way while you are at church but another way when you're at home! They notice how you profess faith in Jesus, yet there is no materialization or evidence in your talk or walk that reflects the teachings of Jesus!

You claim you want your kids saved, you claim you want your grandkids saved, but you are disciplining a generation to be hypocrites just like you are.

You are disciplining a generation to dishonor God, just like you do!

You are disciplining a generation to honor God with their lips but keep their hearts far from Him.

You are the only Bible some people will read before they come to church. You are the only Jesus some people will see before they come to church.

You have a mouthful of scripture, but a heart full of hate.

You honor God with your lips, but your heart is far from Him!

You talk about a Jesus that satisfies and brings joy, but you are always discontent!

You speak in tongues so that everybody can see you, but when you're no longer seen, you turn your nose up at people and don't even speak to them in English!

You love God, whom you have not seen, but don't love the people you see on a daily basis!

You make it a point to bring your family to church and honor God on Sunday, but then you go home and mistreat your spouse; you neglect to mention Jesus if it is not between 10 AM and 12 PM on Sunday, and don't even open your Bible unless you're here.

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Why do you call Him "Lord, Lord," and not do what He says?

This is what Craig Groeschel calls a "Christian Atheist"—someone who believes in Jesus but lives as if He doesn't exist!

Brennan Manning writes, "The single greatest cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That's what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."

Nevertheless, although it does not appear to be, I am here to tell you that this is the grace, the love, the goodness, and the mercy of God wrapped up in a question: why do you say to me, "Lord, Lord," and not do what I say?

You see, instead of giving up on us or condemning us, God is extending His grace by inviting us to examine our hearts and to repent! Be not mistaken, this question is an invitation, not a condemnation, showing His patience and work for our salvation!

Let me inform you that the title "Lord" implies a master or leader. So, to address someone as Lord is to acknowledge that person as your master or leader. Get this: no one can serve two masters. As Jesus said,

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

You cannot serve both God and:
your ego
your career
your relationships
your worldly ambitions
yourself

And if you address Jesus the Christ as Lord—if you call upon the name of the Lord to be saved, if you confess that Jesus is Lord, if you proclaim that Jesus is Lord—you are declaring that Jesus is your Master, your Leader, which means you should be doing what He says!

There should be no disconnect between what you proclaim with your lips and what you proclaim with your life! Your life should be a manifestation of His words! Your daily actions should reflect the instructions your Master, your Leader, has given you.

When you receive His word and learn His teachings, you are to live them out because He is your Lord! That's what it means to say "Jesus is Lord." "Jesus is Lord" is not a formula; it is a

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lifestyle—it is a daily commitment to obeying and following Him.

Notice, friends, that Jesus knows when we profess Him as Lord yet do not do what He says, and He graciously calls us out on our hypocrisy because He loves us and is discipling us:
to walk it like we talk it,
to not only talk the talk but also walk the walk,
to honor God with our lips and to honor God with our lives, with hearts that are not hardened, but ripe for the working of the Spirit in Christ Jesus!

And here is my sermon for you today in one sentence: As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, the foundation of what you do and what you say should be Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Give me ten more minutes to preach what Jesus said in verse 47-49, and I'll be out of your way:

According to Jesus, this is what someone who comes to Christ and hears His word and does them is like: he or she is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But get this: the one who hears

and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great!

You see, the entire salvation of the house is contingent upon the foundation! A house without a solid foundation cannot withstand the storms that will inevitably come, and it's no different with your life—some of you have built your lives on worldly philosophies, worldly trends, cultural trends, doctrines of demons, family traditions, and personal opinions. And when the storm of life hit, you couldn't handle it; it left you bitter, broken, damaged, and exposed because there was no solid foundation to withstand the damage. You had no solution that worked to cover the loss, and now, after the storm, you remain in despair.

Others of you thought you had the right foundation because you come to church, you tithe, and you offer up praises unto God with your lips. But when the storm hit, your life crumbled because your foundation wasn't what you thought it was.

Friends, just like a house can't stand without a firm foundation, our lives won't withstand the storms of life—much less the storm of death—if we aren't grounded in the right

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place. And when that happens, the fall will be great.

You see, when you have a solid foundation, the house may be damaged, but it can be restored. But if the house has no solid foundation, then a damaged house cannot be restored!

But I have a word for all of you this morning: you needed those storms to come into your life. Some of your lives needed to be shaken up, and some houses needed to be torn down by storms that God allowed.

Why? To show you that not everything or everybody you've been trusting in is reliable, to reveal that what you've been holding onto isn't holding onto you, and to expose that the foundation you thought you had been what you truly have. Now, with your life in ruins, shaken up, and your house torn down, let me tell you by the grace of God about a foundation that will hold firm even when the storms come, even when death comes. Let me tell you about a foundation that you can always rebuild upon, even if a storm comes and shakes things up!

Here it is: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone (Matthew 21:42)!

The Apostle Paul said it like this: "For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

The prophet Isaiah said it like this: thus says the Lord GOD:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;
Whoever believes will not act hastily"
(Isaiah 28:16), see also 1 Peter 2:16.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

I say to you again: As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, the foundation of what you do and what you say should be Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him,
for His yoke is easy and His burden is light!
Call Him Lord, and do what He says!
Call Him Lord, and do what He says!
Call Him Lord, and do what He says!

I'm finished now, but I believe I'll testify:
Idk how you feel about it, but

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My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

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