

SECRETS YOUR PASTOR NEVER TOLD YOU

Luke 6:39-49

Conversations with people from church.

1. **I don't aim at you.**

2. **I couldn't hit you if I tried.**

You – remember the week I aimed that message at you?

– *NO YOU DON'T!* You weren't here that week.

But the Holy Spirit does take aim & HE hits us every time!

I wish I were as smart as some people give me credit for being!

The Pharisees WERE concerned about hitting everybody else.

But they were NOT concerned about doing God's will.

God's standard is different than the religious leaders who like to judge *others*,
and tear *others* down, while not obeying what God has told *them* to do.

Separation of followers 6:12-49

As the nation rejects Jesus, He concentrates His efforts on His followers.

The instruction of the twelve 6:17-49

Jesus teaches His followers what their ministry should be like.

Religious leaders:		Christ's followers:	
1. Content with the status quo	6:20-26	Not content now	
2. Love those who love them	6:27-36	Love without concern for what they get	
3. Judge others	6:37-42	Correct their own faults	
4. Emphasis on externals (rituals)	6:43-45	Emphasis on the heart	
5. Don't want to DO God's will	6:46-49	Want to DO what God says	

The obligation to love 6:27-49

6:27-36 – God's children ought to imitate our Father by being kind to others without expecting similar treatment from them.

This pattern is contrasted to the attitude of the Pharisees:

They want to set themselves up as leaders who fix everybody else.

But *they* aren't interested in *DOING* God's will.

THREE PRINCIPLES CONCERNING GOD'S WORD AND US:

[Illustrations ==> Principle]

1. God wants ME to work on MY problems, not yours! 39-42

3 Illustrations: – Blind leading blind

– Student better than teacher

One can't help another become righteous, if he isn't righteous himself.

A teacher can't lead his students beyond where he himself has reached.

The Pharisees establish a pattern.

That's what their disciples look like.

If you follow the road of the religious, that's what you'll look like.

They become judges of everyone else.

They're known for judging, *criticizing* and condemning,

They're the "burden loaders"

They're not known for *doing* what God wants people to do.

Their disciples look like them.

Jesus comes to do the Father's will – that's what His disciples ought to look like!

– Log removing speck

Pentecost: "A speck of sawdust and a plank are identical in nature; they differ only in size."

You can hear the religious leader speaking: "Here, let ME help YOU, poor thing."

Blind person offers to lead a blind person.

Unskilled person offers to teach another unskilled one.

Person with cataracts offers eye surgery to a person with dust in the eye.

Principle =>YOU clean up *your* act--

Don't worry about the other guy!

We've got plenty to do, working on the areas God points out to us!

That's what Jesus says should be top priority for His disciples.

We can't help others, unless we come to the source of truth to find the light there.

We should try to recognize and resolve *our own* weaknesses,
and *build up* others, rather than criticize and tear them down

Spurgeon warns: "A small turn of the switch on the railway is the means of taking the train to the far east or far west. The first turn is little, but the points arrived at are remote."

The pupil usually imitates the teacher not in his strengths, but in his peculiarities. The courtiers of Richard III gradually became humpbacked, because he was round-shouldered.

In his day he observed almost all the women of a certain country begin to limp, because a popular princess was afflicted with temporary lameness.

He cleverly said: **Mankind's tendency to imitate others is "the only excuse I know of for Darwin's theory of our having descended from the ape."**

"This should prevent us from taking any man as our leader. If we trust any mere man, though he may be right in ninety-nine of the hundred, he is wrong somewhere, and our tendency will be more influenced by his one wrong point than by any of his right ones."

"There is one you may follow implicitly, and only one. There is one you may trust without reserve, and only one-- Jesus.... You will do best not even to follow the sheep, but to follow the shepherd only, and to do that even if you walk alone.... If we have Jesus as our Leader, we cannot go *beyond* our leader, but we *shall* grow more and more like Him."

2. Good fruit comes from a good heart--

The condition of the heart determines the kind of fruit. 43-45

Illustrations: -- Good fruit from good tree

-- Neither figs from thorns, nor grapes from briars

Every tree produces according to its own nature.

We act out what's in our heart.

If our heart is bitter, our speech will be bitter.

If our heart's committed to God, and wants to serve Him, our conduct will show it.

Matt. 15:11-20

Principle-->Good deeds come from a good heart

-- the mouth blurts out what's in the heart

The Pharisees weren't producing good fruit because of the nature of the tree.

Their heart was defiled, so they produced rotten fruit.

What kind of fruit are WE producing? Grade A? So-so?

What comes out our lips depends on what's in the heart.

The common apology, "I'm sorry. It just slipped out!" won't do.

It won't come out the mouth if it's not in the heart! **45**

The action Jesus desires from His disciples comes from the heart.

3. DOING God's Word gives stability in the storms, NOT hearing it. 46-49

Many are following Him around, calling Him Lord, but that's as far as it goes.

They don't take the next step: *DOING* what He says.

True followers recognize the importance of *HEARING AND DOING* what He says.

**Illustrations: – House built without foundation
doesn't stand up to the rushing river.**

The issue here is not building on a *false* or on a *true* foundation.

They didn't have time to *deal with* the foundation!

They were too busy going on with their lives.

Jesus' followers have to deal with the foundation;

build their house on His teaching; to HEAR and DO what He says.

Principle => Stability in storms comes from doing God's will.

Jesus' teaching will only have lasting value if we put it into practice.

He hears . . . , He acts . . .

* Those who put His teachings into practice are like the wise man who builds his house on a solid foundation.

* Those who don't are like the fool who builds his house without a foundation.

This is a concern in ministering in a church where we hear the Word of God taught every week. – That can become an end in itself.

– We get satisfied with getting stuffed – not with DOING GOD'S WILL

– That inflates the head – but doesn't change the life.

– Stability in storms doesn't come from a stuffed head, but a changed life!

Importance of *HEARING* God's Word. – *Are WE LISTENING to God's Word?*

Importance of *DOING GOD'S WILL* – desiring that before anything else!

– *Are we DOING God's will?*

What does God want us to DO about what we've heard?

Do we really care, more than anything else, that we DO God's will?

Is that the desire of our heart?

Neither I, nor anyone else always does it consistently.

But is that the longing of our heart?

Is that what we live for?

Spurgeon: "My Master will take you for pupils, though you've been with other masters all this time; though you don't know even the rudiments of what He's going to teach, He will take you. My Lord keeps an A B C school; He begins with infants. What a mercy it is that He takes such poor, stupid heads as ours, who know nothing except what we shouldn't know....

Come to Him, for if you're incapable, He is not; His capacity will soon overcome your incapacity. You say, "I cannot learn." Ah, but you don't know how well He can teach; for He can teach so well that even those who think they cannot learn are soon instructed in His school.

Stand not back, dear friend, because you cannot pay the fee, for my Master's is a free school; He takes nothing from us, but He gives everything to us. The only admission ticket you need is simply to be **WILLING TO BE TAUGHT**, to be conscious that you need guiding, and to SUBMIT YOURSELF to His guidance and instruction. Are you willing to do so?

Oh, you say, 'I shall grieve Him till He gives me up.' I have often thought so. I don't wonder that you're troubled by that thought; it has often come across me when I see what little progress I have made after being so many years in His school. If I had any human master he would have run out of patience with me long ago, but the Lord never gives up a scholar; having once commenced to teach, He continues His lessons till they are fully learned, and the more difficult it is for Him to teach, the more honor it will be when He gets all His scholars educated for the skies. He will not accept defeat; He will overcome ignorance, and sin, and hardness of heart, and infirmity, and incapacity, till He has instructed us in the lore of heaven, and made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."