

“Modeling Jesus’ Life!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Last week we looked at Jesus’ sermon on the plain(17).
 - 1.1.1. We looked at having right attitudes in the **beatitudes**.
 - 1.1.2. And we learned that if we retaliate on our enemy we’d be living on the low level of the world. **But** if we **love** them, **do good** to them, **bless** them, & **pray** for them, **then** we rise to a higher level & glorify the Lord.
- 1.2. This may be an instance of the Jewish method of preaching. The Jews called preaching *Charaz*, which means *stringing beads*.
 - 1.2.1. The Rabbis held that the preacher must never linger more than a few moments on any topic but, in order to maintain interest, must move quickly from one topic to another. Jewish preaching, therefore, often gives us the impression of being disconnected.¹
 - 1.2.2. May we **find & enjoy** the beauty of each pearl in this passage!
- 1.3. **Prayer:**

2. **QUADRUPLE COMMANDS! (37,38)**

- 2.1. **JUDGE NOT!** (37a)
- 2.2. **Judge** – Forbidding the habit of criticism.
 - 2.2.1. To be a **critic**, to have **criticism**, to **criticize**, to **discriminate**.
 - 2.2.2. Jesus doesn’t mean that we are **not to form opinions**, but **not** to form them rashly or unfairly!
- 2.3. **CONDEMN NOT!** (37b)
- 2.4. This is telling someone, or some group(Samaritans), that they are beyond the mercy of God. [or like the Pharisees did to the tax collectors]
- 2.5. **RESENT NOT!** (37c)
- 2.6. **Forgive** comes from an Old English word that literally means “**to abstain from giving**.”
 - 2.6.1. The underlying idea is of **giving up** resentment or a claim. (Encarta Dict.)
 - 2.6.2. Context seems to mean we should **give away much forgiveness**, & we’ll receive much in return!
- 2.7. **HOARD NOT!** (38)
- 2.8. We should always give with pure motives, "*hoping for nothing again*"[6:35]; yet God does promise, "*He that gives unto the poor shall not lack!*"

¹The Gospel of Luke. 2000, c1975 (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series

- 2.9. "The grass is not greener on that side of the fence. And the grass is not greener on this side of the fence. The grass is greener **where you water it.**" [Frank Fried; Bible Illus]
- 2.10. A **missionary** tells of a **woman in India** holding in her arms a weak, whining infant, while at her side stood a beautiful, healthy child. The man of God saw her walk to the banks of the **Ganges River** and throw the robust youngster to the crocodiles as an offering, and then turn toward home again still clutching the sickly child to her bosom. Tears were running down her cheeks when he stopped to question her concerning her shocking actions; however, she proudly replied in defense of her conduct, "**O sir, we always give our gods the best!**"
- 2.11. "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, & running over."
- 2.11.1. The picture here is of grain poured into a container, pressed down & then shaken so that every little corner is filled & the grain poured in until it's run over. [LKGNT; pg.155]
- 2.12. **Bosom** – the fold of a garment as it extends beyond & droop over the belt.²
- 2.12.1. It was used as we use pockets today. Except sometimes larger items were placed in it, like...
- 2.12.2. **A nursing child** - Numb.11:12 "...Carry them in your **bosom**, as a guardian carries a nursing child..."
- 2.12.3. **A little lamb** - 2 Sam. 12:2,3 (Nathan's parable for David) "The rich *man* had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor *man* had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and **lay in his bosom**; and it was like a daughter to him."
- 2.12.4. **God's children** 😊 - Is.40:11 "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, **And carry them in His bosom**, And gently lead those who are with young."
- 2.12.4.1. God says, "you're safe in my pocket little one!"
- 2.12.4.2. **It was the safest spot!** – i.e. **Passport** (front pocket/or carrier)
- 2.13. Many years ago two young men were working their way through Stanford University. At one point their money was almost gone, so they decided to engage the great pianist **Paderewski** for a concert and use the profits for board and tuition. Paderewski's manager asked for a guarantee of \$2,000. The students worked hard to promote the concert, but they came up **\$400 short**. After the performance, they went to the musician, gave him all the money they had raised, and promised to pay the \$400 as soon as they could. It appeared that their college days were over. "No, boys, that won't do," said the pianist. "take out of this \$1,600 all your expenses, and keep for each of you 10 percent of the balance for your work. Let me have the rest." **Years passed**. Paderewski became prime minister of Poland following World War I. Thousands of his countrymen were starving. Only one man could help, **the head of the U.S. Food and Relief Bureau**. Paderewski's appeal to him brought thousands of tons of food. Later he met the American statesman to thank him. "That's all right," replied Herbert Hoover. "Besides, you don't remember, but you helped me once when I was a student in college."

² Manners & Customs of the Bible; pg.504

3. TWO PARABLES, TWO ILLUSTRATIONS! (39-42)

- 3.1. **TWO PARABLES!** (39,40)
- 3.2. (39) If we are **blind** to **God's way of living**, & attempt to **lead others**, both we & they will **fall into a pit**.
- 3.3. (40) **Q: So how does a person live this kind of life?** (37,38)
- 3.3.1. **Follow a person that knows how to live!**
- 3.3.2. **Because everyone who has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.**
- 3.3.2.1. **Be like his teacher** – (lit. “*reach his teachers level*”)
- 3.3.3. **Q: Parents how will your children learn to live Jesus' way?**
- 3.3.4. **Read John 13:13-17.**
- 3.4. **TWO ILLUSTRATIONS!** (41,42)
- 3.5. This is an example of the humor of Jesus.
- 3.5.1. **He must have been smiling when he taught this hyperbole.** 😊
- 3.5.2. **Show glasses** I made back when I 1st taught Luke.
- 3.5.2.1. [Here, let me get that dust speck out of your eye!] {Honda Dealership}
- 3.6. **We have no right to criticize, unless we ourselves are free of faults.**
- 3.6.1. **Thus, we have no right to criticize at all!**
- 3.6.2. (Barclay) “there is so much **bad** in the best of us, and so much **good** in the worst of us, that it **becomes any** of us, to **find fault** with the rest of us.”
- 3.7. **“Faults** are like the headlights of a car; those of others seem more glaring than your own.”
- 3.7.1. It's like a **skunk** walking up to anyone & telling them, “**you smell horrible!**”
- 3.8. This is like our current proverb of “**people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones!**”
- 3.9. **Hypocrite** – A **contrast** to the intentional politeness of “**brother**”.
- 3.10. See, Christianity is a way of life that is learned from Christian models!
- 3.10.1. We have no right to **criticize** or **instruct** another, about how to live until we are sure that **our lives** are in harmony w/Christ.

4. TWO TREES & TWO PEOPLE! (43-45)

- 4.1. **The Tree!** (43,44)
- 4.2. The **fruit** of each tree reveals its **actual character**. It is the final test.³
- 4.2.1. **Good people** or **evil people** reveal their **inner attitudes & values** by their actions & words!

³Robertson, A. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*.

- 4.3. Remember the series *All in the Family?* - Edith, in her own way, was kind of a saintly person. Archie complaining, as Archie commonly did said to her, "That's you all right. Edith, the Good. You'll stoop to anything to be good. You never make nobody mad. You think it's easy living with a saint? Even when you cheat you don't cheat to win. You cheat to lose. Edith you ain't human." Edith says, "That's a terrible thing to say, Archie Bunker. I am just as human as you are." Archie retorts, "Oh, yeah? Then prove you're just as human as me. Do something rotten."
- 4.4. A present day proverb, "For no good laundry detergent leaves stains on a shirt collar, nor does an inferior detergent get these stains out; for each product is known by its effectiveness. For cleanliness is not obtained from dirt, nor is softness obtained from industrial cleansers." [Carl Carozzi, *Pocket Parables*; Bible Illustrator]
- 4.5. Have you learned to **walk your talk**?
- 4.5.1. Do people see a harmony between what you **say** & what you **do**?
- 4.5.2. Between what you **claim to be** & what you **are**?
- 4.5.3. Is there an alignment between your **belief** & your **behavior**!
- 4.5.4. Between **conviction** & **action**?⁴
- 4.6. Keep your heart right w/God, & the Lord will produce the good fruit in your life.
- 4.7. **The Treasury!** (45)
- 4.8. Build your character & U will be able to help others when they have spiritual needs
- 4.9. "A young man who devoted himself to ideological and moral problems... had been hoping to be further stimulated by meeting **Socrates**. But contact with this intellectual "giant" so overawed him that he scarcely dared to open his mouth to speak or to ask a question. So they walked side by side for a while without conversation. **Then** Socrates suddenly broke the silence and said kindly but briefly to his young companion, 'Speak, that I may "**see**" you.'
- 4.9.1. In this short sentence lies the deep recognition of the connection between a person's **character** and his **word**.
- 4.10. "The **good man** brings **good things** out of the **good stored up** in his **heart**" (NIV)
- 4.10.1. Jesus says, The **words** of their **lips** are in the final analysis the **product** of their **hearts**.⁵
- 4.10.2. Always our speech betrays us!
- 4.11. I believe in the *Freedom of Religion in our Country*...but why don't we **show by our lives** the **superiority of Christianity**, that it produces **better men & women!**
- 4.11.1. Instead, the world looks on at Christianity as if it were looking in the mirror. (i.e. no difference)

⁴ Excerpts taken from *Visioneering* by Andy Stanley; pg.179.

⁵ *The Gospel of Luke*. (W. Barclay) The Daily study Bible series.

5. TWO BUILDINGS & TWO STORMS! (46-49)

- 5.1. **LORD, LORD!** (46,47)
- 5.2. **Lord, Lord** – Repeating a person’s name in Hebrew is an expression of intimacy.
- 5.2.1. When God speaks to Abraham at Mount Moriah, as he is about to plunge the knife into the breast of Isaac, He says, “**Abraham, Abraham.**” (Gen. 22:11)
- 5.2.2. When God encourages Jacob in his old age to take the trip to Egypt, He says, “**Jacob, Jacob**” (Gen. 46:2).
- 5.2.3. Moses from the burning bush: “**Moses, Moses,**” (Ex. 3:4)
- 5.2.4. The call of Samuel in the night, “**Samuel, Samuel**” (1 Sam.3:10).
- 5.2.5. Consider David’s cry of agony, “**Absalom, Absalom,**” (2 Sam.18:33)
- 5.2.6. Jesus’ cry of desolation on the cross, “**My God, my God.**” (Matt 27:46).
- 5.2.7. When Jesus confronted Martha, “**Martha, Martha**” (Lk.10:41)
- 5.2.8. When He warned Peter, “**Simon, Simon**” (Lk.22:31)
- 5.2.9. And when He wept over Jerusalem, “**Jerusalem, Jerusalem**” (Matt 23:37).
- 5.2.9.1. In each case we find the word repeated for **intimacy’s sake.**⁶
- 5.3. **So, how do we grow as Jesus’ disciples & in our capacity to model His life?**
- 5.3.1. We must **hear** Jesus’ words & **do** them.
- 5.3.2. **Hearing** is necessary, but if it stands alone, it is deficient!
- 5.4. **Judas** knew the vocabulary, but he did not **do** the will of God; & when the storm came, his house fell!⁷
- 5.4.1. Those that call Jesus “**Lord**” are not really His unless they **practice** what He tells them to do!!! 😊
- 5.5. (47) He that *comes to me* (that’s **surrender**); he that *hears my sayings* (that’s **discipleship**); He that *does them*(that’s **obedience**). [Griffith Thomas, pg.92]
- 5.6. **HEAR & DO!** (48)
- 5.7. **Dug deep** – (Lit.) “dug & went deep, & laid the foundation on bedrock”.
- 5.8. **HEAR & DO..NOTHING!** (49)
- 5.9. He couldn’t be bothered to **dig down**. The sand was much more attractive & much less trouble.
- 5.9.1. **Ever take short cuts & pay for it later?**
- 5.9.2. My old patio cover. I cheated on wood size. Larry brought Dean Bowman over to see if it could be “*beefed up*”. Dean told Larry as soon as I walked around the corner, “*that’s coming down*”. [I wanted him to build on what I had/“*no way*”!]
- 5.10. “Happy is the man who sees things, not in the light of the **moment**, but in the light of **eternity!**”
- 5.11. Once we learn the **hard way** is often the **best way**, & the **long way** is often the **right way**, then we will find that our lives are established upon the teaching of Jesus & no storms will ever shake them. (Barclay)

⁶10,000 Sermon Illustrations. Tavletalk, April, 1990, pg.18.

⁷ Warren Wiersbe; With The Word; pg.673.

- 5.12. When it floods in Haiti some of the poorest of houses literally melt, because they have no foundation. They are made of sticks & mud & thus literally just wash away. (I don't use that as an analogy of the poor in any way, just as an example of the illustration here)
- 5.13. **Ruin** – *a breach in a dam*. As a medical term, “*laceration*,” “*rupture*”.
- 5.14. **In your next storm will you stand firm or fall flat?**
 5.14.1. What we are building is **tested** today by the **storms of life**, but there will be a final & greater testing at the judgment seat of Christ.
- 5.15. This seems to be another promise from Christ that storms, floods, & strong winds **will** be blowing upon the lives of even those w/**the right** foundation!
- 5.15.1. **The storm of cancer** upon a family member; the **hurricane of debt** upon your business; the **tornado of Satan** himself spinning family relationships into turmoil; *staggering often from 1 disaster to another*.
- 5.15.2. Realize, God has a greater purpose than our immediate comfort!
 5.15.2.1. Can you see “beyond the **physical**, beyond the **emotional**, beyond the **temporary**, beyond the **material**, beyond the **visible**, even beyond the **grave?**”⁸ [as Mary/Martha had to do w/Laz]
- 5.15.3. Cling to the truth, “**I will not be shaken, for I'm founded on Jesus, my Bedrock!**”

⁸ Anne Graham Lotz; Why; pg.52.