

The Gospel According to
Luke

“The D-Attitudes”

Part Two
(Chapter 6:37-49)

Introduction

Poor... hungry... weeping... hated... excluded... reviled... cursed... spitefully used... struck on the cheek... confiscated possessions.

These are Jesus’ ‘talking points’ for His disciples – short, summary statements to discuss what they could expect in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Jesus was not just talking to the twelve. He was talking to them, plus the rest of His disciples. He was talking to the rest of His disciples throughout history – **including you and I.**

Welcome to the world of discipleship! You can expect many **negative encounters** as a disciple of Jesus Christ. You can also experience much **positive encouragement**; and that is the theme of the second part of Jesus’ sermon.

The negative encounters of verses twenty through thirty-six mostly describe the circumstances you can expect as a Christian in a world hostile to the love of God for lost mankind.

The positive encouragement is in verses thirty-seven through forty-nine. They describe how you rise above your circumstances.

We’ll organize our thoughts around two points: #1 You’re Encouraged Because You Are Becoming Like Jesus, and #2 You’re Encouraged Because You Are Building For Jesus.

#1 You’re Encouraged Because
You Are Becoming Like Jesus
(v37-45)

The Jews were expecting their Messiah to come and establish the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus had been performing miracles that only the Messiah could perform. He had just chosen twelve apostles. The number twelve was significant: There were twelve tribes among the Jews. Choosing twelve apostles made a strong statement that Jesus was going to set-up His kingdom with the help of these men. As you read on in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts, you see that His disciples definitely expected the kingdom, and to be ruling on thrones in the kingdom. They were ready to take their cabinet positions.

But there was a catch. Jesus knew He'd be rejected by the Jews. He knew He'd be crucified. He knew He'd be resurrected and ascend into heaven. He knew the kingdom on earth would be delayed until His Second Coming. He was preparing His disciples for the enmity they would, and will, encounter while we wait for His return in a hostile world.

Not always; not everywhere; but the history of Christianity, and the plight of many Christians today, is suffering persecution for the sake of the Gospel.

You are encouraged to rise above your adverse circumstances. Your circumstances are working for you, to make you like Jesus. They are working for you to make you like Jesus in at least two ways: They give you the opportunity to see the *example* of Jesus, and they give you the opportunity to *examine* yourself.

Verses thirty-seven through forty discuss the example of Jesus.

Luke 6:37 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

“**Judge not**” may be the most popular words in all the Bible. *Even the unsaved have them memorized!* They are commonly understood to mean you should not examine a person's life and pass moral judgment upon them. People exclaim, “*You're judging me,*” to turn

the tables on you. They may be sinning, but you are somehow worse for judging them.

Jesus cannot mean you never pass moral judgments:

1. First of all, in just a few verses, Jesus is going to describe judging based on the fruit you bring forth.
2. Second of all, the rest of the New Testament makes it clear that the Church on earth has both the authority to make moral judgments, and the responsibility to act upon them by disciplining its members when necessary.

What did Jesus mean in these verses? What He meant is made clear in verses thirty-nine and forty.

Luke 6:39 And He spoke a parable to them: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?”

Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

God’s plan is for you to become more-and-more like the Lord as you follow Him and no one, nothing, else. If you are a disciple, you are being “perfectly trained” to “be like [your] teacher.” You are becoming more like Jesus! You will want to be careful along the way to keep your eyes on Jesus. If you begin following some other person, or principle, or philosophy... You will be like a blind person being led by another blind person and you will end up taking a fall.

Now you can understand verses thirty-seven and thirty-eight. Jesus didn’t judge or condemn; instead, He forgave and gave of Himself. He is your example of how to act and react when persecuted for His sake.

In His first coming, Jesus did not “judge” and He did not “condemn.” Listen to these words, from the Gospel of John:

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Do you remember the episode of the woman caught in adultery who was brought before Jesus? The religious leaders judged and condemned her, saying she should be stoned to death. He invited anyone in the crowd who was without sin to hurl the first stone.

John 8:10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

John 8:11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

No judgment; no condemnation. Only forgiveness that was based on the giving of Himself to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Jesus was prepping His disciples for life between His two comings. They *were*, and we *are*, in the world to witness. The unsaved are already condemned and will be judged unless they receive the Lord. We don't need to have a judgmental, condemning spirit towards them. Instead, we should be both forgiving and giving – just as Jesus was when He was on earth.

Jesus followed-up with an illustration. In the marketplace, when you bought grain, it was carefully measured out. A generous merchant would, once the measure was full, press it down and shake it to fill it some more; then put the lid on it with grain running over, to maximize your measure.

Jesus compared Himself to the generous merchant. He was and is ready to give you all the spiritual ‘merchandise’ you need in order to reach lost men and women with the Gospel. But He won't do it unless you are *forgiving* and *giving* towards them for His sake.

With the example of Jesus in focus, you are next encouraged to examine yourself (in verses forty-one through forty-five).

Luke 6:41 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?

Luke 6:42 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that *is* in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that *is* in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

This illustration was meant to be humorous. You should think in terms of a Marx Brothers or Three Stooges skit. The apostles and disciples would have laughed out loud at the imagery.

There is a wealth of teaching here in terms of the value of self-examination. I want to focus only on one important point. We've just seen that disciples are encouraged to become more like Jesus. But we instead have a tendency to compare ourselves to other believers, rather than measure ourselves by Jesus.

Let me give you an example. When my kids were little, and I coached T-ball, I was like A-Rod compared to them! I could outrun, out-hit, and out-throw every six year old on my team. But in the back of my mind was the memory that I never went from Little League to Pony League because I couldn't hit or catch a curve ball.

Jesus is the spiritual measure you are to look at – *not* your brothers and sisters. It is not meant to discourage you. Sure, you are leagues away from being like the Lord. Still, you are promised that you are predestined to be like Jesus; that you are daily being changed from glory to glory; and that He who began this work in you will most certainly complete it. It's not a matter of being discouraged at how far short you fall, but of being encouraged you will absolutely be like the Lord one day; and, in the mean time, you have the indwelling Holy Spirit to help conform you into His image.

You should also bear spiritual fruit:

Luke 6:43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Luke 6:44 For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *men* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Fruit is true to the character of the tree or vine. Figs come only from fig trees; grapes only from grapevines. Good, healthy, well-tended trees and vines produce good fruit.

The point is this: Before you are saved, you can only produce works consistent with your nature. Your nature is “bad,” like a “thorn” bush or a “bramble.” After you are saved, you are able to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Is there fruit in your life? Is it good fruit? Again, Jesus isn't trying to discourage you. Quite the opposite! He is reminding you of the radical changes that occurred when you received Him as your Lord and Savior. If your fruit is somewhat rotten... Then He wants to cultivate and nourish you all the more, to prune and cut away the overgrowth.

Listen: The life of a disciple is tough. But no matter how tough, you can be encouraged that you are becoming more like your Lord. That's why, in the Book of Acts, when the apostles and disciples were imprisoned and beaten or martyred, **they rejoiced!** They were counted worthy to be treated just like Jesus.

You're going to have many negative encounters; but you can expect much positive encouragement. The last four verses tie it all together.

#2 You Are Encouraged Because You Are Building For Jesus (v46-49)

Jesus had just preached a sermon to His disciples. This was His conclusion. Like any good conclusion, it was short and to the point.

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Luke 6:47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

Luke 6:48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

Luke 6:49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

In our country, in our cities and counties, there are building codes.

They sometimes seem extreme and unnecessary – until the flood or earthquake or tornado or hurricane hits.

In first century Israel, there were no such codes. But there were flash-floods. Knowing the flood would surely come, you'd better dig deep and lay a strong foundation. If you did, your house would survive. If you didn't, the ruin of your house would be great.

Remember the overall context. Jesus was telling disciples they could expect to suffer much persecution at the hands of the unsaved. In these verses He likened the persecutions to a flash-flood.

The flood was coming; it continues throughout history, and will only get worse in the Great Tribulation. **You should build according to the code.** You don't have to; no one is forcing you. But, when trials and troubles come, if you're not building your life on Jesus according to the code, you're going to experience ruin.

You know, sometimes the things you read in God's Word seem just as extreme and unnecessary as building codes. But you're smart to implement them, to follow them. You don't know what is coming.

Let me give you an example, with a twist of exhortation. The Bible commands you to "train up a child in the way he should go." The thing parents most fear is that their child or children will not go the way of the Lord. Parents are especially afraid of the teenage years.

Putting these two thoughts together, you'd think that parents would take every opportunity to get their kids to Bible study. Sadly, over the years I've watched too many parents pass on opportunities to get their kids in Church... Until they find the weed in the backpack (or worse), and then they are drowning in the flood waters.

God is gracious; He throws-in the life preserver. But it would be so much better to have built more solidly – to have taken the code more seriously.

Conclusion

It is encouraging to know that, by following the Lord, you are building something that will last for all eternity. It may not seem like much, the 'building' of your life. But if it is on the foundation of Jesus, and dedicated to Him, it is far more meaningful than anything anyone in the world could ever achieve.