

Luke 6:46-49

"The House on the Rock"

September 29, 2024

1. Intro

- a. At about 11:10 on Thursday night, Hurricane "Helene" hit the Gulf Coast of Florida
 - i. This was the first known Category 4 storm to ever hit that area
 1. 140 mile per hour winds...
 2. Floodwaters roaring through the streets, several feet deep...
 3. Over twenty deaths...
 4. Over 1.2 million people without power...
 - ii. Helene has left her mark on many of the coastal towns in Florida
 1. And the road to recovery will undoubtedly go well into next year
 - iii. One of the striking things when you look at images from the aftermath of the hurricane is how it absolutely flattened the houses in its path
 1. There were certainly a lot of houses that lost their roofs, or had been pretty badly flooded
 - a. But those houses that were directly in the line of the storm where it first hit hardly stood a chance
 - i. You can see pictures where all that's left is a pile of debris where someone's home once stood
 - ii. I even saw one video of a smaller home literally floating away as the waters raged
 2. Here in Oklahoma, we're used to the devastation caused by tornadoes
 - a. Those in themselves are awesome and terrifying displays of God's power
 - i. But a hurricane seems worse, doesn't it?
 - ii. Not only do you have the incredible winds that can knock over houses and uproot whole trees
 1. But you also have the force of the ocean, as the waters that are usually held in check by the nice sandy beaches, are now rushing down the streets of the cities and into peoples' homes
 - a. I can't even imagine what that must be like to go through such an experience
- b. Well, it's interesting that this is the type of imagery that our Lord Jesus brings to our minds, as he closes his Sermon on the Plain
 - i. We don't know how long Jesus' sermons typically were
 1. You could read through this sermon in under five minutes
 - a. So most scholars believe that, especially in these distinct times of teachings, that Jesus like expanded on the things we are given in the Scriptures
 2. But honestly, just thinking back to all we've learned these past few weeks, what we have here is enough, isn't it??
 3. We spent a few weeks looking at the blessings and woes of verses 20-26
 - a. We saw that Jesus had much encouragement to give to those who are poor and needy...
 - i. But strong words of warning to give to those who are rich and prosperous

- b. We saw that Jesus had tender words of comfort to those who look at the sin in their own hearts and the sin out in the world with much weeping and mourning...
 - i. But stern words of caution to those who speak with laughter and ambivalence toward the brokenness of the world around us, as they shout out, "Peace! Peace!" when there is no peace
 - c. And we saw that Jesus has much blessing in store for those who endure persecution and suffering for the sake of his name...
 - i. But great woes for those who live their lives in pursuit of the praise of men
 - 1. The blessings and woes of verses 20-26 were both comforting and challenging to us who live in the affluent and comfortable west
 - a. But Jesus definitely doesn't allow us to stay in our ease and comfort
 - b. At least, not if we want to follow him
4. In verses 27-31, Jesus pushed firmly against our notions of how we typically treat those who wrong us, and instead called us to live a radically counter-cultural life by doing such things as
- a. Loving our enemies...
 - b. Doing good to those who hate us...
 - c. Blessing those who curse us...
 - d. And praying for those who abuse us
 - i. To the one who strikes us, Jesus didn't say "Get the revenge you're entitled to," but instead, "Turn the other cheek, and let him strike that side as well"
 - ii. To the one who steals from us, Jesus didn't say, "Protect your stuff at any cost," but instead, "Go ahead and give him your tunic as well"
 - iii. And when our enemy comes to us, hungry and thirsty and in need, Jesus didn't say, "Tell that jerk this is exactly what he deserves"
 - 1. Instead, Jesus said "Give freely to them, and don't ask for anything in return!"
 - e. Jesus gives us all of these ridiculously hard commands, and then in verses 32-34, he tells us that if we are UNWILLING to do all of these things for our enemies, then we are acting no differently from them AT ALL
 - i. And even worse, if we persist in this attitude, then it is entirely possible that we may not truly be a son or daughter of God
 - 1. For our Father COMMANDS us to be kind to the ungrateful and evil, just like He was kind TO US
 - 2. He commands us to be merciful, just like He was merciful to us
 - a. And the plain truth of the Scriptures is that, if we refuse, then we are walking in sin
5. But Jesus doesn't leave us wringing our hands, wondering what to do, does he?
- a. In verses 37-42, Jesus says we are to regularly examine our own hearts for unrepentant sin
 - i. If we fail to do so, then we stand in great danger of becoming blind guides, just like the Scribes and the Pharisees Jesus so often stood against

1. We must deal with the log of sin in our own eye, and THEN, we can help our brothers and sisters deal with the sin in THEIR lives
 - ii. This is the beauty of the body of Christ, isn't it?
 1. If I realize that I am in sin, whether its not loving my enemies, or getting caught up in all the pleasures and treasures of this world, or any number of other sins...
 - a. I don't have to fight those battles alone, do I?
 2. We as a church family ought to be able to share our sins and struggles with one another
 - a. We ought to be willing to say, "I have a huge log in my eye, and I can't get it out on my own... will you help me?"
 3. But on the other side of that coin, when our brother or sister comes to us and says, "Michael, I see this sin in your life, and I'm concerned that you maybe don't see it yourself, or that you're unwilling to deal with it..."
 - a. When our brother or sister comes to us with that kind of loving and humble spirit, we ought to ALSO be loving and humble enough to accept their correction – even their rebuke – if it means we might find freedom from the things that have entangled us
 - b. THIS is what a HEALTHY church body looks like!
 - i. And THEN, once we have gotten our body back in shape IN HERE, THEN we can go out into the world and lovingly and gracefully and humbly proclaim the Gospel of repentance for the forgiveness of sins
 1. And as Jesus teaches in verses 43-45, THEN we will begin to bear much fruit
 2. And THEN we will prove to the world that we are truly Christ's disciples
 3. And THEN our Father will be glorified
 - a. As we abide in Christ and as we walk in step with the Spirit, we will begin to live the lives that we have actually been created for, even before the foundations of the world!
 - c. This sermon is only 26 verses long, but it is packed FULL of incredible truth
 - i. But then Jesus closes with this all-important reminder:
 1. NONE of this matters ONE BIT, if we decide not to DO what we have heard!
2. Luke 6:46-49
- a. *⁴⁶Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸he 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. ⁴⁹But 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.*
 - b. Friends, this is a central truth that runs all throughout the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation
 - i. Think about Adam and Eve in the Garden...

1. God creates Adam and Eve out of the dust of the earth, He breathes His very own life into them, and then He literally places them in paradise, where they didn't lack for a single thing
 - a. He tells them to be fruitful and multiply
 - b. He tells them to cultivate the land and care for all the animals
 - c. He tells them that they are free to enjoy it ALL, including the Tree of Life
 - i. And the one thing he says NOT to do is, "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."
 1. If you refuse to obey in this ONE area, you shall surely die
 - d. Adam and Eve heard all of the commands of God very clearly
 - i. And yet they chose not to DO what He had said
 1. And because of their sin, their house was built on a ground without foundation
 - a. The house fell
 - b. And the ruin of that house was great, as the entire human race was plunged into sin and death, with no ability to rebuild our house on our own
 - ii. Think about Abraham and Sarah, living nearly a century without being able to have children
 1. God gives Abraham an INCREDIBLE promise, as he tells this husband and wife that they would finally have a son in their old age
 - a. Not only would they have a son, but they were also given the covenant blessings that God would make their descendants as numerous as the sand on the seashore, He would give them a land of their own to dwell in, and through them, He would bless the nations
 - b. Abraham and Sarah heard all of these promises from God very clearly
 - i. But they chose not to DO what He had said
 1. Sarah instead gives Abraham her servant, Hagar, and says, "Here Abraham, let's do things our own way and have a son through HER instead"
 2. And from the son who Abraham had through Hagar, the boy Ishmael, came what would eventually become the followers of Muhammad...
 - a. Muslims, from the Arab world
 - ii. Abraham and Sarah sinned against God
 1. I wouldn't say that their house fell
 2. But when you think about the great conflict that has come through the centuries between Muslim and Jew, and now between Muslim and Christian...
 - a. The house has gone through SIGNIFICANT damage
- iii. Think about the nation of Israel itself
 1. Abraham's descendants do indeed multiply greatly... unfortunately it is through 400 years of slavery in Egypt
 - a. But God sends Moses to deliver them from the hands of Pharaoh, and through many signs and wonders, the Israelites are finally given their freedom
 - i. As they leave Egypt and go on their way toward the Land that God had promised to Abraham, God meets them on Mount Sinai
 1. Here, he gives to the people His law

- a. An incredibly detailed set of commands that tells them how they are to be set apart from all the other nations of the world
 - b. And He says to them, “This is the path that I have laid before you – walk in it, and I will bless you beyond your imagination!!”
 - ii. The Israelites heard every single command that the Lord gave to Moses on the mountain
 - 1. They were ALL written down for them to learn
 - 2. They were ALL recited for them to hear
 - a. They heard the words of the Lord very clearly
 - i. But they chose to NOT do what He had said
 - iii. And for forty years, the Israelites wandered through the desert, until an entire generation of the people had died
 - 1. Great again was the damage done to their house
- iv. But things didn’t automatically get better in the Promised Land, did they?
 - 1. God raised up a King for Himself, King David... the warrior... the poet... the giant-slayer... the adulterer... the murderer
 - a. Despite David’s MANY grievous sins, God still covenants with David, promising David that he would never lack a son on the throne, and that eventually, there would come a son from his line whose Kingdom would be established FOREVER
 - 2. If these kings would simply DO all that God had commanded, the kingdom of Israel will be planted firmly in the land, and they would be disturbed no more
 - a. David heard the commands of God very clearly
 - b. His son, Solomon, heard the commands of God very clearly
 - i. But they chose to NOT do what He had said
 - 1. Solomon sinned greatly against God
 - a. The kingdom was torn in two, as they divided into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah
 - b. The Northern Kingdom was nearly completely destroyed by Assyria
 - c. The Southern Kingdom soon fell to Babylon
 - 2. The house of the nation of Israel fell when the streams broke against it, and the ruin of that house was great
 - ii. We see this continuing on even still today, don’t we?
 - 1. As God’s original chosen people still live in rebellion to His commands today
 - a. The vast majority of Israelites live scattered across the world
 - b. Those who are still attempting to live in the land that was once promised to them are face with constant turmoil
 - i. Again, as a consequence of Abraham’s disobedience with Hagar
 - c. And most tragic of all, they still reject God’s very own Son as their Messiah

- c. This was why Christ was so clear and so emphatic in his Great Commission of Matthew 28
 - i. We are to go to all the nations and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit
 - 1. But the key to ensuring that they truly are a disciple is that we are to teach them to observe EVERYTHING Jesus has commanded
 - ii. In the original Greek, that word for “everything,” strangely enough, means EVERYTHING
 - 1. So when Jesus commands that his disciples love one another, it means we MUST love one another
 - a. Just as when Jesus says that we must love our enemies, we MUST love our enemies
 - i. If not, then we might be a hearer of his words, but we are not a doer
 - 1. And our house will have no foundation to stand upon
 - 2. When Jesus commands us to not set our hearts on the treasures of this earth, it means we MUST NOT set our heart on the treasures of this earth
 - 3. When Jesus commands us to rejoice when we are persecuted and reviled and treated unjustly all for the sake of his name, that means we MUST rejoice when these things happen
 - 4. Same for when Jesus commands us not to lust after women...
 - a. When he commands us not to divorce our spouses...
 - b. When he commands us not to harbor anger or bitterness in our hearts...
 - c. When he commands us to pray and fast and give IN SECRET where no one can see what we’re doing...
 - d. When he commands us choose the narrow and the hard way...
 - e. When he commands us to beware of false teachers...
 - f. When he commands us to repent of our sin...
 - g. When he commands us to call others to repentance for their sin...
 - h. When he commands us to pick up our cross, and to die to ourself, and to surrender EVERYTHING to him as King
 - 5. When Christ commands us to do all these things – and so many more – we MUST obey
 - a. This is what it means to be his disciple
 - b. In fact, this is what it means to LOVE Jesus
 - i. If you look out in the world today – even if you look in the church – you’ll find MANY who say, “Oh, of course I love Jesus”
 - 1. But Jesus says in John 14:15,
 - a. *¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*
 - 6. Again, this is NOT a new teaching
 - a. Back in Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Moses said to the people,
 - i. *¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰LOVING the Lord your God, OBEYING his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*
 - 1. We choose life, by LOVING God AND by OBEYING God
 - b. In Joshua 22:5, Joshua reiterated this when he said,
 - i. *⁵Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, AND to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and*

to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

1. We love God by walking in His ways
 2. We love God by Keeping His commandments
 3. We love God by clinging to Him and serving Him with ALL of our heart and soul
- c. In Daniel 9:4-5, as Daniel bows before the Lord in humble repentance for his sins and the sins of the people, he prays,
- i. *⁴O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him AND keep his commandments, ⁵we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.*
 1. Friends, when we turn aside from the commandments and rules of God, we are no longer loving God, regardless of what we might “feel” in our heart
 2. If we love God, we will obey His commands
 3. If we love Jesus, we will obey his commands
 4. If we truly love the Lord with all of our heart and mind and soul and strength...
 - a. Then we will not just be hearers of the Word, we will be DOERS of it
- d. James, the half-brother of Jesus, makes this clear in James 1:22-26
- i. *²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*
 1. Friends, if you are truly a follower of Christ, don't forget what you look like
 - a. Don't forget that your garments were once stained with the filth and depravity of your sin
 - i. But now Christ has clothed you in robes that are clean and pure and holy
 - b. Don't forget that that you were once wretched and pitiable and naked and blind
 - i. But now Christ has clothed you in his very own righteousness
 - c. Don't forget that, even though you can only see it as in a mirror dimly, the Holy Spirit is ALREADY making you into a new creation, as he conforms you more and more into the likeness of Christ
 2. If you hear the words of Christ, and you choose NOT to do them, eventually you'll begin to forget all of these things
 - a. And you will be deceiving yourself when you say that you love the Lord
 - ii. But if instead, as James says, we are NOT a hearer who forgets, but a doer who ACTS, then we will be BLESSED in all of our doing
 1. When you choose to love your enemies, you will be blessed as you begin to know and experience more of the love that God has for you
 2. When you choose to do good to those who hate you, you will be blessed as you begin to know and experience more of the goodness that God has for you
 3. When you choose to walk in faithfulness to your spouse...
 4. When you choose to walk in obedience and honor toward your parents...

5. When you choose to self-sacrificially love one another...
6. When you choose to seek first the Kingdom of God...
7. When you choose to carry your cross and follow in the footsteps of your Savior...
 - a. The Bible promises that you will be blessed in ALL of your doing
 - i. I'm not talking about material blessings, although God may choose to bless you in that way
 - ii. No... I'm talking about the greatest blessing of them all – the blessing of TRULY loving the Lord your God, as you walk according to HIS words!
- e. From Genesis to Revelation, the message is clear: we are called to be DOERS of the Word, not just hearers of the Word
 - i. We saw that with Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, and the entire nation of Israel
 - ii. We saw that from James in his letter to his Christian brothers and sisters
 - iii. We saw that with Christ as he closed out his Sermon on the Plain
 1. And we see it in the final chapter of our Bible, in Revelation 22, verses 12-15,
 - a. In verses 12-13, Jesus says,
 - i. *¹²Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*
 - b. And then in verses 14-15, the angel responds,
 - i. *¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*
 1. In other words, OUTSIDE is everyone who hears the words of God, yet does not DO them
 2. Outside is everyone who has built their house without a foundation
 - a. Just like the homes that were swept away in Hurricane Helene, their homes will be swept away when the flood of Christ's judgment comes to this earth
- f. Friends, examine your life
 - i. Have your robes been washed white in the blood of Christ?
 - ii. Has he removed the guilt-stained garments of your sin, and clothed you in his very own righteousness?
 1. If so, then don't forget what you look like
 2. Don't forget the only reason you'll be able to stand faultless before the throne of God is because of the GRACE of God, and the obedience of His Son
 - a. If you love Jesus, you will obey his commands
 - i. Your foundation will be firmly set on the Rock that is Christ
 - ii. And when the floods come – and have no doubt, they WILL come – when the floods come, the waters will break against the house
 1. And your house will not be shaken
 2. For it is a well-built house