

Introduction

We become part of God's Kingdom by faith alone. We are not saved by works. However, works are not absent. Our life is a response to God's work. Our life is the result of God's work. Works demonstrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

[Luke 6:17ff.](#) teaches how God's people should live in God's kingdom. [Luke 6:17ff.](#) is similar to the Sermon on the Mount in [Matthew 5-7](#). Some argue that Luke is providing a condensed version. Others think that this is another sermon that is similar in content.

Jesus said that the Law and the Prophets (OT Scripture) can be summed up in Love God and Love your neighbor. These are also the two commands of the new covenant. Jesus's sermon in [Luke 6](#) teaches that God's people should love God and love others.

Blessing

[Luke 6:17-19](#) "17 And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all."

Who came to hear Jesus teach? [Luke 6:17](#) "... a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon,"

Why did they come to Jesus? [Luke 6:18-19](#) "18 who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all." Some came for healing; others came for the teaching.

[Luke 6:20-23](#) "20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. 22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets."

What blessing do the poor receive? [Luke 6:20](#) "... Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." **Is poverty typically viewed as a blessing or a curse?* Notice that this blessing is present - "yours IS the kingdom of God."

*What blessing do those who are hungry receive? [Luke 6:21](#) “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied ...” *Is hunger typically viewed as a blessing or a curse?*

*What blessing do those who weep (mourn) receive? [Luke 6:21](#) “... Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.” *Is lamentation (weeping) typically in response to suffering or blessing?*

*How should we respond to persecution for our faith in Jesus? [Luke 6:22–23](#) “22 “Blessed are you ... Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy ...” *Is persecution typically viewed as a blessing or a curse?*

These sayings should not be read merely as blessings to those who have physical suffering. If we compare them to Jesus’s teaching in [Matt 5:1-12](#), we see that Jesus emphasized the spiritual aspect of their suffering. That is, their physical suffering was an expression of being unsatisfied by the world. They pursued spiritual things at the expense of physical things.

This priority of eternal things is what Jesus is blessing. *What does your time reveal about your priorities?*

Woe

[Luke 6:24–26](#) “24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

*What have the rich already received? [Luke 6:24](#) “... you have received your consolation.” I think the point here is that their **wealth** is their consolation; they do not have consolation from God to look forward to. *Is wealth typically viewed as a blessing or a curse?*

*Who does Jesus say will experience hunger? [Luke 6:25](#) “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry ...” *Is sufficient food typically viewed as a blessing or a curse?*

*Who does Jesus say will mourn and weep? [Luke 6:25](#) “... Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.” *Is laughter typically a response to suffering or to blessing?*

Who did the ancestors of the crowd speak well of? [Luke 6:26](#) “... so their fathers did to the false prophets.” How does this contrast with how true prophets were treated (see verses 22-23)?

Response: We should be careful that we do not love comfort more than Christ. Suffering for Christ is a far greater blessing than living a comfortable life. **Love Christ more than comfort.**

Love your enemies

[Luke 6:27-31](#) “27 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. 31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

Who did Jesus say we should love? [Luke 6:27](#) “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies ...” Notice that Jesus describes **how** you love your enemies; we should love our enemies in action, not just in word. *What should you do to those who hate you?* [Luke 6:27](#) “... do good to those who hate you.” *What should you do to those who curse you?* [Luke 6:28](#) “28 bless those who curse you ...” *What should you do to those who abuse you?* [Luke 6:28](#) “... pray for those who abuse you.” *What should you do to those who strike you?* [Luke 6:29](#) “29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also ...” *What should you do to those who take from you?* [Luke 6:29](#) “... from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.” *What should you do to the one who begs from you?* [Luke 6:30](#) “30 Give to everyone who begs from you ...” *What should you do when someone fails to return what they borrow?* [Luke 6:30](#) “... from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.”

What is the general principle in verse 31 for how you should treat others? [Luke 6:31](#) “31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.” This idea is present in Jewish tradition. [Tobit 4:15](#) “And what you hate, do not do to any one ...” *Shabbath 31a (Hillel)* “What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor; that is the whole Torah, while the rest is the commentary thereof.”

I suspect that churches would have greater unity if we applied this rule in the church. I suspect that marriages would last longer if we applied this rule in our marriages. I suspect that children would grow up to rebel far less often if we applied this rule in our homes.

[Luke 6:32-36](#) “32 “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Who is able to treat well those who love them and do good to them? [Luke 6:32-34](#) “... even sinners love those who love them. 33 ... even sinners do the same [do good]. 34 ... Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.”

What will be our great reward if we love our enemies? [Luke 6:35](#) "... your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High ..." How does God treat the ungrateful and evil? [Luke 6:35–36](#) "... he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Response: Jesus defines "love your neighbor" as "love your enemy." This shows that love has nothing to do with whether the person **deserves** love. We should strive to treat all people well, including those who make us regret it. If you abuse my kindness, I should not consider it as **my** loss. Love unlovable people. **Love people like God loves you.**

Christian Judgment

[Luke 6:37–38](#) "37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.""

*Why shouldn't we judge others? [Luke 6:37](#) "Judge not, and you will not be judged ..." Why shouldn't we condemn others? [Luke 6:37](#) "... condemn not, and you will not be condemned ..." Why should we forgive others? [Luke 6:37](#) ... forgive, and you will be forgiven." Why should we give to others? [Luke 6:38](#) "give, and it will be given to you ..." How is this different than karma? Karma is impersonal; it is a mystic philosophy. Karma says that whatever you do, the "universe" will repay you. Scripture's teaching on consequences is more nuanced. This passage is not merely saying that you will receive what you give. This passage is reminding us that we answer to God (**a person, not a mystic force**).*

[Luke 6:39–42](#) "39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. 41 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

What happens when a blind man leads a blind man? [Luke 6:39](#) "... Will they not both fall into a pit?" Who does a disciple emulate? [Luke 6:40](#) "...when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." Why should you be a good teacher to lead a disciple and have sight to lead a blind man? We lead people well when we know where we are going. You cannot lead someone to follow Christ when you are far from Him.

What should you do before addressing the speck in your brother's eye? [Luke 6:42](#) "... first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye." What is the parabolic meaning of the log and the speck? Both refer to

shortcomings. The point is that we tend to be blind to our own shortcomings, but critical of others. *How would churches be different if we applied this teaching in the church?*

[Luke 6:43–45](#) “43 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

How do you recognize a fig tree? [Luke 6:44](#) “44 for each tree is known by its own fruit ...” *From where does evil speech come?* [Luke 6:45](#) “... out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” Sin comes from within. Unless our heart is changed by the Holy spirit, we will continue to produce evil.

Response: The warning against judging others cannot be separated from the context of loving your enemy. It is loving to point out the speck in our brother’s eye, but **only when done so lovingly**. That is, if you **condemn, rather than forgive**, then you do not love. **Love others like God loves you.**

Two houses

[Luke 6:46–49](#) “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.””

To what does Jesus compare those who hears and does His word? [Luke 6:48](#) “he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock ...” *Why didn’t the river destroy the house?* [Luke 6:48](#) “... the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.”

To what does Jesus compare those who hear and disobeys His word? [Luke 6:49](#) “But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation ...” *What happened when the river rose?* [Luke 6:49](#) “... When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.””

In this illustration, what is the foundation upon which a house should be built? The foundation is **obedience** to Christ’s word (not just hearing).

Conclusion

Last week, we contrasted the old covenant and the new covenant. The old covenant pointed forward to Christ and was fulfilled by Christ. The new covenant rests in Christ. This does not mean that there are no commands in the new covenant. It means that Christ has perfectly obeyed in our place, but we still respond.

Jesus said the two greatest commands were to love God and love your neighbor. He said the entire OT rested on these two commands. I think we could also argue that obedience in the NT rests on these two commands. We do not earn a place in the new covenant through loving God and others. But we live out the new covenant through loving God and loving others.

Love Christ more than comfort. Love people like God loves you. This is the foundation of Christian life.

Closing Scripture: [John 13:34-35](#) “34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.””