



THIS QUESTION
IS FOR
YOU

**Why Do You Call Me Lord
And Don't Do What I Say?**

2023-03-19

Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome back to our series, 'This Question is FOR YOU"! In this series we are exploring 4 questions Jesus asks us. These questions Jesus asks are designed to get us thinking about who Jesus is and how we can follow him well. Today's question is - "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46). As followers of Jesus, it is important to not only profess our faith, but to also live it out in our daily actions. This includes obeying Jesus' teachings, as well as striving to be more like him in our character and behavior. Is there anything you're delaying being obedient about? Allow today's study to speak to your heart about next steps you can take to obey and follow Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: That Teacher Was Tough, But Effective!

When I was in grade 7 I had a teacher who was particularly tough. This teacher had stern warnings for those who wanted to play around rather than study. Our teacher was tough, but effective! What about you? What teacher do you remember who was tough but effective? Or maybe you remember a teacher who was tough but not effective! Share your story with the group!

STUDY:

A Tree and Its Fruit

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.
Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.
People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.”

Luke 6:43-44 NIV

Jesus is a Master at using parables to teach us important truths. He does this for today's question - "Why do you call me 'Lord' and don't do what I say?" To get us to think about our response to his question, Jesus tells us the parable of two trees. Let's dig into this parable and ask ourselves, "What is my response to Jesus?"

READ: Matthew 21:18-19 and Luke 6:43-45

1. What do you notice about what's happening with the trees in these passages? Write down or make note of everything you observe.
2. Think about the tree in Matthew 21:18-19. How might this tree be a picture of not doing what Jesus says?

LEADER NOTE: The fig tree had leaves but no fruit. From a distance it looked like a good tree. That's why Jesus walked up to it! But when Jesus inspected the tree, he found it had no fruit. In Jesus' day, Israel was like this fig tree. They claimed to follow God but they rejected His Son. They looked good from a distance but they had no fruit.

3. In Luke 6:45 we read that a good person produces good fruit based on what is in the person's heart. What are some examples of good fruit?

LEADER NOTE: Galatians 5:22-23 talks about the "fruit" the Spirit produces in followers of Jesus. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." In Matthew 5:15 Jesus said, 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Our good works are also the "fruit" or evidence that we are walking with Jesus.

4. Think again about Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:43. Jesus says, "No good tree produces bad fruit ...". What are examples of bad fruit?

LEADER NOTE: Bad fruit is the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. In Galatians 5:19-21 we read, 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." Bad fruit can be evidenced when our words or actions show a heart far from God.

READ: Matthew 7:15-23. A Tree and Its Fruit

5. In vs. 16 we read, "By their fruit you will recognize them." How does this apply to the church today? How does it apply to you?

LEADER NOTE: The church today should be known for our fruit! Our fruit is the outcome of the faith we claim. Following Jesus should make a noticeable difference in our lives both corporately and individually. Colossians 3:12-14 says, "12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." This is part of the fruit by which we should be recognized.

6. This passage in Matthew 7 is a warning from Jesus to be aware of false prophets. How might we know someone is a false prophet today?

LEADER NOTE: We must be aware of those whose words sound religious but who are motivated by money, fame or power. How can we tell if someone is a false prophet? Rather than seeking to glorify Christ, a false prophet will seek to glorify themselves. (adapted from the Life Application Bible study notes)

7. In Matthew 7:21, Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." What kind of person is Jesus warning about here?

LEADER NOTE: In this passage Jesus warns that there are people who claim to follow Jesus but they are not really followers. Saying we follow Jesus and doing his will are two different things. The Father's will is that we would listen to and obey Jesus' teachings.

8. **READ** the words to the following hymn - Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

- How does trusting God factor into obeying him?

LEADER NOTE: Trusting God is integral to obeying Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." When I trust that God is good and has my best interests in mind I am ready to obey Him.

- Do you agree with the chorus of this hymn, that the only way to be happy in this life is by doing what Jesus says? Why or why not?
- How do these words encourage you in doing what Jesus says?
- In what way are you struggling to obey these days? How can your group pray for you?

PRAY:

Read the final verse of the hymn, Trust and Obey, and then spend some time thanking God for his grace and guidance in your life to follow Jesus and do what he says.

Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
What he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.