



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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I Am a Disciple!

Truth About God: God expects us to follow the teachings of His Word.

Truth For My Life: If I am to be a disciple of Jesus, I will follow His teaching.

Lesson Text: Luke 6:20-38, 44-49

Key Passage: Luke 6:46 - And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Luke 6 contains key sections from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-49), a metaphor of a tree and its fruit to illustrate that our actions reveal our inner character. It reminds us that authentic discipleship is not merely about what we say or display on the outside; it's about an internal transformation that daily calls us to live like Jesus. Just as a tree's fruit reveals its nature, disciples' actions and words reveal our hearts. This teaching confronts hypocrisy. It is a call to align our inner and outer life and practice what we preach.

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:45). Who we are at our core impacts the fruit we bear. Jesus wrapped up the Sermon on the Plain the same way He wrapped up the Sermon on the Mount: with the Parable of the Two Builders. Jesus asked, *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"* (Luke 6:46). When we look at verses 48-49, it seems the only difference between the two men was that the wise man was willing to put in the work to dig deep to lay his foundation on something solid, whereas the foolish man built his house with a shifting foundation—sand. At the heart of our willingness or refusal to obey the words of God is a heart of wisdom or foolishness. Proverbs 24:3 explains that by wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.

We need to distinguish genuine faith from mere profession, a necessity when God's people face persecution, false teachings, and cultural pressures. The tree metaphor focuses on inner transformation. The builder parable stresses the practical outworking of faith. Together, they sing a holy duet calling us to a life of authentic discipleship.

In the Old Testament, some people preferred to hear more hype than truth. True prophets often faced hardships for their willingness to speak the truth, distinguishing themselves from false prophets who spoke only from their own hearts or falsely proclaimed peace (Jeremiah 14:14). Physically, prophets often endure harm, imprisonment, or threats to their lives because their messages challenged the status quo and angered powerful figures. Speaking truth to power is usually fraught with risks. The New Testament reflects on such martyrdom, noting prophets were tortured, mocked, scourged, imprisoned, stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, and slain with the sword (Hebrews 11:35-37).

Jesus prophesied that His disciples would face rejection (Mark 13:13). He warned of opposition, persecution, and rejection, much like the Old Testament prophets endure. These prophecies foreshadowed the challenges the disciples would encounter, including hatred, trials, physical punishment, and even martyrdom. Jesus was not just trying to be the most popular preacher in Galilee. He was calling for disciples, not just fans.

Ministry naturally brings moments of discouragement. We must trust God despite pain is a holy resolve, and to stand firm when we want to crumble is itself a declaration of faith that God's hand is guiding us and using our trials to deepen our walk with Him. Seasons of discouragement will come to all of us. There will be days when it feels difficult just to make it through, let alone to give ourselves in meaningful service. Choose not to focus on the present pain but to focus on eternal glory.

In today's world, we are surrounded by choruses of voices—not all trustworthy—proclaiming safety or progress without substance. To navigate this, we must heed Scripture's call to discern truth from falsehood. The *Titanic's* story reminds us that misplaced trust in human constructs—whether a ship or soothing words—can lead to ruin. By anchoring ourselves in God's truth and obeying His Word, we avoid the fate of those who trusted in false cries of "peace." **Build on the unshakable foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ.**