Luke 6:37-49 – Obeying Jesus as Lord Clint Le Page
Main point – Do what Jesus says, with humility and generosity, because of what God has done and what will come

Sadly, for some people, what they say and what they do, doesn't match up.------
Have you met someone who says one thing and then acts differently?---------
What they appear and who they really are, are two different things.-----
They're hypocrites.(**SLIDE**)
I know none of us are perfect, but have you met someone who claims to be a Christian, but doesn't show it in their behaviour?---------
I've known people who came to church n' professed to be Christians, but over time their lives showed that they weren't.
A pattern of serious sin and lovelessness revealed the truth, the reality.---------
We'll see in our bible passage today that Two houses can look the same, but be built on different foundations, and have different outcomes.
Two people can call Jesus Lord, but for one, it's just words & just for show, whereas for the other, it's legit, it's genuine.------
What does your life say about who you truly are, and who you really follow?----------
And for those of us who follow Jesus, we're asked today to obey what our Lord says, because of who he is, and because the consequences are serious.---------

Before we get into our passage, let's remember what's happened earlier in Lk ch6 the last 2 weeks.
In **v17(SLIDE)** Jesus is teaching a large crowd of his disciples (his followers), along with many others who've come to see and hear him.
He teaches them on a plain.
So while lots of this sermon sounds like the Sermon on Mount in Matt 5-7, as Neil said, it's a different occasion.
Jesus is teaching similar things to a different group of people.
He has taught them who will be blessed, v20, and he has warned others.
[5pm – I know at 5pm you didn't hear Neil's sermon from last Sunday morning, as we had our guest preacher, but I encourage you to listen to that on Youtube]
As Neil explained last week, Jesus has commanded them and us, to love our enemies,(**SLIDE**), do good to those who hate you… pray for those who mistreat you.
And, do to others as we want them to treat us (**v27,28,31).**
And we do this, not to earn God's reward, blessing and salvation.
Obedience to Jesus doesn't earn reward, it just shows the reality that a person belongs to God. That he is our Father.-------
That connects with what we're thinking about now.-------

But I'm going to structure things a bit differently today.
We're not going to move through the passage from start to finish.
We're going to start at the end and move backwards.
We're going to start with Jesus's conclusion to Sermon on the Plain, his final and main point, then work back from there.
Because where he finishes helps us understand what he says earlier.--------
I hope that by the end, you'll have a clear understanding of the whole section, and how it relates to your life.

So my first point is(SLIDE), Building on the Rock.
V46, Jesus says, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"-------

Remember back in v17, a large crowd of people who claim to be disciples are following & listening to Jesus.
But simply calling Jesus, 'Lord', isn't enough.
For him to truly be our Lord we must do the things he says.
Not that we're saved by what we do, but the obedience is evidence of saving faith.-------
Jesus is saying what you say and what you do needs to match up.
We need to be authentic Christians.----------
Jesus goes to say, 'I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words and acts on them'/ does them…
He tells the famous story of **two builders and two houses**, which you might know from Matthew 7 [v24-27].
The houses might look the same from the outside,(**SLIDE**) but one is built on foundations which are dug down deep onto the rock.
And the flood came and the river crashed against that house and it wasn't shaken.[Ezek 33.31; Jam 1.22]
But the one who hears Jesus' words and does not act on them, is like the man who built his house without a secure foundation.
The torrent of water crashed against it and it collapsed.[cf Ezek 13:10-16]
It was ruined and destroyed.
My mind went to the houses washed away n' destroyed in the **Nepali** floods – devastating.(**SLIDE**)
It was real and devastating for many thousands of people.----------
The question is, how does our house keep standing, how does our life not get destroyed?----------
V47, we must hear Jesus words and act on them/ do them.
And to do that we need to believe them, we need to trust them, trust in him.------
The person who trusts in Jesus and does what he says, is like the house that stays standing in the flood.
We build our life on Jesus, or nothing; nothing that will stand in the end.
Do you know that?
Jesus is the only foundation that lasts.----------
And we need a strong foundation for the floods will come.
Things will come against you in this life – suffering, injustice, grief.
Streams of affliction, or a flood of persecution.
Even the flood of God's final judgement.
It will not crush & destroy the person who has trusted and obeyed Jesus.--------
So which are you?----------
It was preacher **JC Ryle** who said 150 years ago, and it's still just as true:
You can't have profession without practice
(you can't profess your faith in Jesus then not live it).
You can't be one person in public then live differently in private.-------
That is a soul-ruining place that will sweep you down the broad road to destruction with thousands of others.---------
The church is filled with professing Christians, who are not real.-----
So are you real? Or are you being fake in following Christ?----------

If you are faking it, or putting on a show, over time the truth will be revealed.
Your fruit will reveal your heart.
Point 2, Bearing fruit.(SLIDE)

V43, “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briers. 45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart”.
‘Good’ can mean beautiful, valuable or morally good, and the word for ‘bad’ here means rotten or worthless.
Both the thorny bushes & brambles have thorns, and don’t produce figs or grapes.
Don’t produce good fruit.
Jesus is saying a good tree produces good fruit.----------
Merely knowing what is good, even teaching what is good is not enough.
It’s doing good, and living it out.
V45, a person produces good out of the good stored up in their heart.---
What’s in your heart will reveal itself.
Our speech and our actions reveal the real you.--------
So what do your speech and actions say about you?----------
I think we should all ask ourselves some hard questions(**SLIDE**):

- What do my words say about my heart?----------
- What does my behaviour say about my heart?----------
- What would those closest to me say about who I truly am? ----------

And what if this convicts you, that you have been a hypocrite?
What if this convicts you that your heart isn’t right, you’re not really bearing good fruit and living a life that pleases Jesus?----------
What do you do then?----------
In **Ezek 36(SLIDE)** God promised that under the New Covenant he would give his people new hearts, and his very own Spirit.
I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. **26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone[f] and give you a heart of flesh. **27** I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.
Then Jesus comes and brings in the New Covenant by his own death (Lk 22.20)
He says, that we can only bear fruit by remaining in him.(Jn 15.4)
Then **2 Cor 5 says(SLIDE,v17)**
‘if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has[d] come!
It’s in Christ, by faith & trust in Christ, that we are made new and get new hearts.
Jesus by the Holy Spirit can give you a spiritual heart transplant, by repentance and faith in him.
So turn to Christ as Saviour & Lord, and ask him to change you.----------
Tim Lane & Paul Tripp share in their excellent book, **How people Change**(**SLIDE**)
As we face our thornbush responses, God calls us to repent, receive Christ’s forgiveness and rely on his power to replace the Thorn bush responses, with Fruit tree responses.----
George suddenly lost his job. His firing was unexpected and unfair. He was shocked, saddened and angered. He could have catastrophized things, spiraled into depression returned evil for evil.--- But his trust in Christ’s presence and power enabled him to experience an unusual calm and comfort.
George understands that his employers can take his job, but they cannot take the most precious thing in his life [Christ]. Although he feels betrayed, he recognized that there’s many things for which to be thankful. And it’s since moved him to be gracious to others.------
George was bearing fruit because his life and heart had been transformed by Jesus.

Like George, we are to build our lives on the foundation of trusting & obeying Jesus.
Bearing fruit by, **Being Obedient. Final point.(SLIDE)----------**
Remember, what we've covered so far is the conclusion to Jesus' sermon, and we're moving backwards now to the content.
Remember also in **v27-36** Jesus had been saying,(**SLIDE)**

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

And the motivation for this was there in **v35-36(SLIDE)** – because **God is** gracious to the ungrateful, evil, undeserving.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.-------

God wants us to be like him, to have the same character and display the same qualities he does.
He is our Heavenly Father, and we're adopted children through trusting in Jesus (Eph 1.5; Gal 4.5)
And now God wants to shape the family character in us.

Asking us to do things which are difficult, but good.---------

V37, '"**Do not judge**, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.'
The word 'judge' has a range of meanings, from decide, distinguish, discern; through to condemn and pronounce judgement.
Jesus here is not forbidding us from discerning & saying what is right and wrong.
We need to make judgement calls.
But we must not be judgmental.

Not thinking we're better than others, as the Pharisee does to the tax-collector in **Luke 18 (SLIDE**-v9-11).--------

Not condemning people and damning to hell, in our thoughts or words.---------

When we talk about matters of morality we need to be really careful.
For example, I might say to a Christian, that people who sleep around outside of marriage are sinning.
Yet with humility, I want to qualify that by saying that,

> "I am a sinner too. I've needed God's forgiveness for many things."
> (**SLIDE**)But God says in 1 Cor 6, that the sexually immoral; with the greedy, drunkards, abusers and more, will not inherit the kingdom of God". **1Cor 6.9-10**
> "So please turn back to Jesus for forgiveness and to get right with God, because those attitudes and behaviours will bring God's judgement."

I'm not doing the judging and condemning, but God will.----------
We need God's wisdom in this, and we also need humility.----------

Similarly to that Jesus says, '**forgive** and you will be forgiven' (cf. Matt 6.14-5)
God forgives people when they repent, when we repent.
And we are to forgive others when they repent too.(Lk 17.3-4)
We are not to repay them, get revenge, get even; or even hold onto resentment and bitterness.
We forgive because God has first forgiven us, as he will on the last day.----------
We'll remember that in the Lord's Supper later.
But **Rom 5 says(SLIDE,** v8-10)
God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.----
And when 'we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son'.
And **Eph 4.32 (SLIDE)**

‘And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you[a] in Christ.’----------
You see it is God’s forgiveness of us, his grace and mercy and generosity to us, that drives our generosity and grace to others.
When you find it difficult to forgive, or give, reflect again on God forgiving you, and your Lord Jesus, dying to forgive you, and asking you to be like him.----------

In **v38,** Jesus asks us to **Give,** saying**,** and it will be given to you.(**SLIDE**)
With the measure you use it’ll be measured back to you.---
This is both a warning and an encouragement.------
It’s not some be good to others and good will come to you, karma.
But rather God will be good and gracious to you – it’s personal and relational.
When we experience God’s generosity and grace, we will be generous to others.
People who know God are not only open-hearted in their relationships with others.
They are also open-handed.
And generosity will not go unrewarded.
The good coming will be pressed down and running over, abundance.
Picture being at the market, and a shop-keeper giving you, not this(**SLIDE**).
But this(**SLIDE**). Or this(**SLIDE**) – more food, more than you asked for – an abundance that’s overflowing.
This is highlighting God’s extravagant generosity.
And it’s both a present and future thing, a now and not yet experience.-----
Yes, some people and false preachers will look to this verse to support their prosperity Gospel.
As if the more you give, the more you get. No.
But God is promising generosity and to give you all you need and more.-----
And sometimes that comes through the giving of others to us in our need.[Matt 19.28-9]
Jesus is saying in v38, if we’re not generous to others, it shows we’ve not truly been changed by God’s grace, and shouldn’t assume he’ll be gracious to us.
So I ask, has God generosity to you, made you a giving person?----------
If not, then you are warned here.----------
How do others experience you giving to them, in your time, love and of resources you have?----------
And is that ever to those who are different from you or hard to love?----------

In **v39** Jesus begins the conclusion to his sermon.
He’s saying, be careful about who teaches you, who you listen to & follow.
Really, Jesus is calling people to listen to and obey him.
He’s warning people to not follow blind people, blind teachers, or you’ll both fall into a pit.
Jesus is implicitly saying, follow me.
And in **v40,** be like me.
Jesus asks us to be like our teacher, like him.---
So Who are you following?----------
Now you might be following lots of different people on Instagram online,(**SLIDE**) but the questions is, Are you following them?
Listening to them, wanting to be like them?
Or Who do you want to be like?----------

Jesus says, don’t be blind, and that theme continues in **v41-42.**
In this famous parable of the log in your own eye and splinter in theirs.

What's interesting is that, if we even get a tiny speck of saw dust in our eye it's painful, and closes your eye so you can't see anything.
Jesus is the only one without any splinter or wood in his eye.
He's the only one who has no sin in his life.
The only one who can see clearly.
That's why we need to listen to him, and do what he says.
Because he actually knows best.
And he seeks our good.
And what does he ask of us here?----------
That we understand the reality of the situation, when we've been wronged or see others doing wrong.
With humility, we need to take a good hard look at ourselves, before pointing the finger at others.(**SLIDE**)
We need to humbly see, confess and repent of our own sin – the plank of wood in our eye, before we try to remove the splinter from another's.
Start with your own faults, take responsibility and repent of your own sins first.
We must not be hypocrites; blind to our own sin, or self-righteously think we're better than others.
How do you go at that?----------
Do you need to repent of any pride, self-righteousness, or sin?-----
Or do you need help getting the log of sin out of your own life?
For we often can't do this alone.----------

The Lord Jesus has said to us today, 'Do what I say.'
And turn away from hypocrisy, faking-faith, or putting on a face.---------
For the obedience Jesus calls for must come from the heart.--------
We've been asked to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to following Jesus.
With humility, and generosity, and repentance.----------
Yes, we still sin, we're all works in-progress.
But having Jesus as Lord means we really want to, we really do, obey his word.------
I asked at the start, Does what you say and what you do match up?-------
It will never be perfect, and we'll never stop needing God's grace, but our obedience needs to be genuine.
Obeying Jesus as Lord needs to be real.----------
Jesus has distinguished between 2 kinds of people.----
Some are blind and hypocritical, produce bad fruit, hear without doing and build without a foundation.
Others produce good fruit, hear and act, and so build on the rock of Jesus' words.
Why?---------
Because God has been gracious and generous to us.----
And the Lord Jesus warned us, that some will be judged, condemned; destroyed.(**SLIDE**)----
Which one describes your future?----------
Let's pray