

To Do or Not to Do, That Is the Question
Luke 6: 46 – 49
January 10, 2009

Last Sunday, as we began 2010, I shared how Jesus, in John chapter 13, washed the feet of His disciples in the manner a common servant would do as an act of service to his master. The lesson Jesus wanted to drive home was that He expected His followers to serve others in love and humility. His moral to the lesson is recorded in John 13: 17 – *“If you know these things, you are blessed (or happy) if you do them.”*

My point was that if you wish to be happier in 2010 than you were in 2009 there are some things you ought to do and not just know: Believe; beware; behave; and belong. All these call for me to do something in response to God’s call upon my life. But there is often a disconnect between my intellectual understanding of what I believe God is saying to me and the actual doing of what God desires me to do.

Hence the ironic question Jesus asks in Luke 6: 46 – *“And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”* That question has stuck in my mind all this week. Luke Chapter 6: 46 – 49 is a challenge for each of us to go all the way in our Christian life – in essence to do instead of simply paying lip service to our faith.

I have decided to write and present a series on that challenge. Today, I will look begin this series by looking at that particular scripture (Read).

So the question we want to explore is this: Are you going to go all the way and do what God asks of you, or are you just going to go only part of the way?

1. Check your heart to make sure you are not riding the fence (Luke 6: 46)

A. Verse 46 must be considered in total; it shows two parts of a typical follower responses to Jesus.

1. In the first part of Jesus’ quote of him, he sounds like he is all in for God: He is calling the right One – Lord, Lord.

2. But the second half of the verse breaks quite differently: And do not do as I say. Instead of being all into God, he is actually just some of the way into God.

B. I sure he was obeying some of the things God asked him to do, just not all the things God asked him to do.

C. Here’s our problem: we get excited when someone gets a little bit of God; they sort of dabble in spiritual things; they obey God in some areas of their life, just not all areas.

D. Here is your problem with God: you are either all in or not at all.

1. **Revelation 3: 14 – 16**

2. **James 4: 4 – 8**

3. Who is an adulterer? It is a person who is half in their marriage relationship; half of the time – at least – they are an enemy of their spouse.

E. That is how it is with your relationship with God. You are either all in for God, or you are not in at all.

2. Understand the benefit of being all in for God (vs. 47 – 48)

A. Short term benefit: well-grounded life.

1. Jesus describes a man who is busy building the superstructure of his life; he digs deep into the bedrock of God's Word; he lays a foundation that allows him to build his habitation from superior spiritual material.

2. Notice he experiences a disaster; it strikes suddenly, and the flood is overwhelming.

3. Nevertheless, the crisis does not destroy him. Why? Because his resources are stronger than the threat!

4. God's children are not immune to the heartaches and threats of this world; but we do have the resources available to not only withstand them, but to overcome them.

B. Long term benefit: indestructible future (Revelation 5: 9 – 10)

1. In Revelation Chapter Five there is recorded what is believed to be a hymn of praise sung by the multitude of redeemed souls before the throne of God in heaven.

2. Listen to the first two verses of the hymn in verses 9 and 10 (read).

3. Beloved, these words remind us of the eternal inheritance God's people have in store for them one day in heaven – an eternal existence with our God and Savior! That is our indestructible future!

3. Grasp the consequences of being less than all in for God (v. 49)

A. Short term consequences: spiritual collapse.

1. Go to any place of ministry to homeless people and you can find folks who are in that crisis due to no other sin than having lost a job, or some other event not of their own doing.

2. But there are also others who have spiraled downward because of self-destructive choices and lifestyles. That is one example of spiritual collapse.

3. Certainly, Charlie Sheen is a poster child for lifestyle choices that can cause spiritual collapse in a wealthy, famous person's life just as easily.

B. Long term consequences: complete destruction.

1. Jesus issued a telling warning in Matthew 7: 21 – 13 (read).

2. There is no room for "jail house lawyering" before the judgment throne of God!