

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 6: 39-49

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 6, verses 39 to 49.

From verses 27 to 38, here Jesus teaches the people how to get along with others. He emphasizes two aspects: the first aspect is to actively love people, even love your enemies; afterward, the negative aspect is not to judge others. With what measure you use, it will be measured back to you. Such a high moral standard leaves a deep impression on everyone who reads it, and often makes one feel a sense of empathy, as if one understands it when reading but cannot do it.

Actually, being unable to do it is very normal; because in our natural human life, it is fundamentally impossible to achieve. Such a high moral standard becomes a mirror to shine on us, letting us know the insufficiency of our own condition. And we are willing to return to our Lord, letting ourselves become poor in spirit, letting ourselves become those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, letting ourselves become those who mourn; letting Jesus become the teacher of each one of us, to help us how to do it.

At that time, around Jesus, there were often scribes and Pharisees who prided themselves as teachers of others, willing to teach others how to do things, coming before Jesus with such a mentality, it was very hard to receive help. Jesus seemed to deliberately point this out. Therefore, starting from verse 39, Jesus began to speak using parables.

Verse 39: "And He spoke a parable to them: 'Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?'"

Actually, each one of us is like a blind person before God; if we want to teach others, it is like the blind leading the blind. Especially Jesus targeting those scribes and Pharisees, they were very willing to teach others based on God's law, and much of what they taught, they themselves could not do; as a result, it is like the blind leading the blind, both falling into the ditch.

Verse 40: "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

In other words, if you are blind and become a teacher, the students you teach are actually also blind, just like you, even weight for even weight; once trained perfectly, no more than like the teacher. Rather than teaching others there, it is better to humble oneself, come before the Lord Jesus with an open heart, and ask Him for help.

Verses 41-42a: "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when yourself you do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite!"

Many times, we see others very clearly, knowing that others are bad here and wrong there, yet never thinking that what is in others' eyes is just a speck, while in our own eyes there is a plank. Because of this plank, what we do is the same as others, or even worse than others, yet we cannot see it. Therefore, Jesus calls them hypocrites.

Verse 42b: "First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye."

Jesus' teaching today is especially helpful for our church life. In the church, through God's sovereign arrangement, brothers and sisters saved at different times often come together, with varying degrees of life maturity, some high some low, some deep some shallow. But we need a common understanding: we come together before God, Jesus Christ is our common teacher, we are all learning to serve together.

Of course, the younger can receive help from the older, but when the older helps the younger, absolutely do not be like the Pharisees teaching disciples, resulting in two blind people both falling into the pit. We must learn how to serve others in life, how to lead by example, becoming examples for others.

Church life is different from school life, church life is different from company life, church life is more like family life; among brothers and sisters there is a life relationship, the younger naturally submit to the older, the older naturally care for the younger.

Verses 43-44a: "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit."

From the time Adam and Eve were created and placed in the Garden of Eden, man has always had a choice: in the Garden of Eden there was the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. If man chooses the tree of life, he connects to the source of life, and naturally some order grows out in life; if man chooses the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he falls into right and wrong. Many times at the beginning it is hard to distinguish what is the tree of life and what is the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But Jesus tells us here that every tree can be known by its own fruit. When the fruit has not yet been borne, they look very similar, but once the fruit comes out, you will know what kind of tree it is.

Verse 44b: "For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush."

Figs and grapes can be food for people, but they do not grow from thorns and thistles. Thorns and thistles are things produced after man's fall under the curse, they belong to the line of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

From another angle, that is to say, when we keep lingering in knowledge, keep lingering in right and wrong, in such a category, you cannot bear the fruit of the tree of life: you cannot bear grapes, nor figs.

Verse 45: "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

Therefore, we ourselves must pay attention to what fruit is borne on us, we ourselves know very clearly. If you often like to complain, often jealous, often like to judge, often like to criticize, the evil from our mouth actually comes from the evil in the heart; we must quickly return before God to repent. If we maintain in the principle of life, naturally the fruit of the Spirit grows: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Verse 46: "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

Earlier Jesus used good tree and bad tree to describe. Naturally, the growth of life will bear fruit, and from the fruit borne one can judge whether it is a good tree or bad tree; this is from the aspect of the manifestation of life. Then Jesus brings us to the level of living. Saying, why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' yet not do the things I say?

Verses 47-48a: "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock."

God's word is that rock, established in heaven, never changing. If we hear God's word and do it, it is like laying the foundation of our life's work on this rock.

Verse 48b: "And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock."

Therefore, not only hear the word, but also do the word. Doing the word is laying the foundation on the rock, and God's word is that rock.

Verse 49a: "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation,"

God's word is the rock, but your house is not connected to the rock, your house is only on the sand; on the earth, this house has no foundation, because the piles are not driven into the rock below, which is God's word.

Verse 49b: "against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

Jesus here uses two different parables: good tree and bad tree, letting us see that bearing fruit is entirely a matter of life. What kind of tree bears what kind of fruit, connected to the tree of life naturally bears the fruit of the Spirit; and when you are connected to the tree of knowledge of good and evil, what grows out is thorns and thistles; this is the first aspect.

And the second aspect, in our living, especially our group living. When Christians come together, they become a church, God's word is the rock of the church; and

whether the church has a foundation depends on whether God's word comes to us, and whether we obey God's word.

A church that obeys God's word is one that lays the church's foundation on the rock. Here it specially tells us that one must dig deep into the ground to properly establish the foundation on the rock. Obeying God's word always costs a price; when you pay the price, as a result, this house's foundation is solid. When the flood comes, when the water comes, the house will not shake.

Whether a church's foundation is solid or not completely depends on whether it obeys God's word. If one hears God's word but does not do it, this house has no foundation, it cannot withstand wind and rain; once Satan raises his work, the house will collapse. May God help us, each one before God, to bear the fruit of the Spirit through the growth of life; and each church's building, because the church obeys God's word, this house is built with foundation and base, not afraid of the invasion of wind and rain.

Let us pray together: Lord! Bless my life, also bless the church where I am; it is a church full of life, full of Your word, and obeying Your word. Help us become people full of life, loving Your word, and obeying Your word; also through me bless my family and the church where I am. Let each one's life be full of the fruit of the Spirit, the church's building have foundation and base. Thank You for Your grace and keeping, we pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.