A TALE OF TWO LIVES
Luke 6:47-49
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I. THE WISE MAN

A. He heard and obeyed

Luke 6:46, 47 – “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord’, and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like…” – Matthew 7:26 calls him a wise man – recognizes the Lordship of Jesus

Some claim there are two decisions – 1.) accept Him as Savior (terminology never used in Scripture), 2.) then later “make Him Lord of your life” (also not in Scripture)

But Jesus is already Lord – Romans 14:9 – “For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.” – Philippians 2:11 – some day “…every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” – we can’t make Him something that He already is!

The terminology of Lordship permeates the New Testament:

- Lord is used 670 times in New Testament – Savior is only used 24 times
- He is addressed almost exclusively by the disciples as “Lord”
- The invitations to salvation often refer to Him as “Lord” – Acts 2:21 – “…Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” – Acts 16:31 – “…Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved…” – Romans 10:9,10 – “…if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved…”
- He is the “Lord of the harvest” (Matthew 9:38), the “Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8), the “Lord of heaven and earth” (Matthew 11:25), the “Lord God of Israel” (Luke 1:68), the “Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8), the “King of Kings and the Lord of Lords” (Revelation 19:16), and the “Lord of all” (Romans 10:12) – there is not one square inch in all the galaxies of His creation that He has not put His stamp on and declared it “Mine”!

This person “…hears My words and acts on them…” Luke 6:47 – hearing and acting on Jesus’ words is a euphemism for true salvation – never seen as someone who hears and then disregards the commands of Jesus:

- James 1:23-24 – “For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.”
- James 2:14-20 – “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?…Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, ‘You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’”

B. He built on a rock

Rock used to refer to solid foundation of Jesus Christ:

- He is the cornerstone – 1 Peter 2:4 – we come to Jesus “…as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God…” – 1 Peter 2:6-9 says He is the “precious corner stone” to believers – to unbelievers He is a “stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” – to believers He is everything – our Lord, Savior, peacemaker, redeemer, guide, friend – but all others trip over Him – too narrow – too demanding – too simple
- Peter’s testimony about Jesus is the rock Jesus built the church upon – Matthew 16:15 – “…who do you say that I am?” – mystical god like Pan? – military leader like Caesar Augustus? – spiritual icon like a resurrected John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah? – Peter jumped in emphatically – “No, no, and no! You are not a stupid mystical little nymph someone made up – or a pompous military leader – nor a prophet – Matthew 16:16 – “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” – Jesus responded, – verse 18 “…upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades
will not overpower it.” – clearly not referring to Peter as the first Pope – Peter is masculine while rock is neuter – also – Peter never given a special place

- “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” – breaks the claim of hell – this is the rock the wise man builds his life upon – that means being a better father and husband – focuses him on the kingdom of God – gains heaven

C. His house stood
Luke 6:48 – “…and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.” – Matthew 7:25 – “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against the house” – Christians are not immune from the onslaught of the world – Our kids get sick, we get cancer, lose our jobs, our marriages are threatened like everyone else – but the life built upon Jesus will never crumble

Clarify “evangelistic church” – How do people get saved?

- Sovereign grace (Ephesians 1:4) – election doesn’t rule out our involvement
- Individual effort – Acts 1:8 – “Be My witnesses” – MOMs, camps, special events, missionaries, being salt and light
- The gathered church – 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25 – “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.”
- Exposure to His Word – Matthew 28:19,20 – we are to “make disciples” – how? – baptizing – and “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you…” – that’s discipleship!
- Let God sort out the “wheat and tares” – Matthew 13:30

II. THE FOOLISH MAN

A. He hears and does not act
Luke 6:49 – the one who “heard and has not acted accordingly” – Matthew 7:26 – called a “foolish man” – moros (moron) – “slow, dull, or stupid” – “one who is morally worthless, a scoundrel” – more than one who scorns the mind, this one neglects his heart and character.

Note – Jesus is referring to one who calls Him “Lord” – he comes to church, listens to the sermon, does some good deeds, but lives his life like a practical atheist – note the similarities between the two:

- Both heard the gospel
- Both called Jesus “Lord” – went to same church, sang in choir together
- They both built their “houses” – their lives – after they had heard the gospel
- They were close enough to compare – possibly same village, same church, same friends
- Implication is they built the same kind of house – nothing different in looks or style – their lives co-existed side by side – possibly hit by the same storm

Then the differences are noticed – the foolish man heard the gospel – but he did not “act accordingly” – he acted as if it were not true at all – he had a false faith – in verse 46 he called Jesus “Lord” – but his life demonstrated he was a practical atheist.

Many are like that today – play the game – going to church – saying the right words – carrying NAS Bible – but if they were ever arrested for being a Christian there wouldn’t be enough evidence to convict them!

Some people hear the words of Jesus but don’t obey:

- Matthew 13 – Satan snatches it away, falls away under affliction, worry of the world and deceitfulness of riches
- Rich young ruler – owned much property
- Pharisees – let religious rules get in the way

Some see and hear Jesus but fail to act
B. He builds on sand

Jesus says the foolish man “…is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation…” – “sand” in Matthew 7:26 – sand erodes – he built his life on his own ambition and goals without every consulting God – the foolish man trusted himself.

Arthur Pink – “They bring their bodies to the house of prayer but not their souls; they worship with their mouths, but not “in spirit and in truth.” They are sticklers for immersion or early morning communion, yet take no thought about keeping their hearts with all diligence. They boast of their orthodoxy; but disregard the precepts of Christ. Multitudes of professing Christians abstain from external acts of violence, yet hesitate not to rob their neighbors of a good name by spreading evil reports against them.” (Gospel – p.483)

We build on sand by:

- Trusting our education, connections, intellect, resources
- Consulting with friends, business associates, neighbors only
- Failure to ever examine our lives with eternity in view

[Story in TV Guide years ago about Melissa Gilbert, child star of “Little House” – alluded to string of broken relationships because she chose career over every other aspect of her life – last line – “Didn’t I tell you what my greatest fear is? That they’ll write on my tombstone: ‘She had an incredible career, but no life.’”]

C. His house is ruined

This might seem overstated – many non-Christians seem to gather much enjoyment and fulfillment out of life – is it true that one who rejects Christ will live a ruined life?

Consider what makes a full life

- Basics – food, clothing, shelter – God’s benevolence falls on all – but thousands of lives are ruined because of man’s sin against fellow man – the earth was created with the capacity to provide food and shelter to all – only reason it doesn’t is because of man’s godless ideas
- Achievement – creative genius God places in our brains runs wild only in free societies – how many brilliant Chinese, Mexicans, Sudanese, and Iranians are held in check by oppressive governments who stifle their creativity because they will not listen to God?
- Enjoyment – differences show – work for the temporal is never satisfying – the Christian works for the eternal – Christians enjoy “love, joy, peace, patience
- Relationships – many enjoy fulfilling relationships – but only if they act out God’s pattern – no marriage can survive without honesty, sexual fidelity, commitment – huge price is being paid for millions who do not obey God’s Word
- Virtues – where do you get them? – honesty, integrity, kindness, hard work, faithfulness,
- Death – ultimate life and meaning is seen here in the eternal – John 11:25-26 – “…I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Psalm 73:1-20 – then I came into the house of the Lord

Philippians 2:10,11 – “…EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

[Clarence Darrow – “How would you sum up your life?” – paraphrased Luke 5:5 – “I have toiled all night and gained nothing.” – “I have lived a life without purpose, without meaning, without direction. I don’t know where I came from Romans And I don't know what I'm doing here. And worse of all, I don't know what's going to happen to me when I punch out of here.”]
QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. What are some of the false reasons people give for thinking they are Christians when they are not?

2. Why does Jesus indicate a difference between what one says and what someone does in Luke 6:46?

3. What is the biblical meaning of the word “repentance”?

4. Why was Jesus’ main call for hearers of the gospel to repent in Mark 1:15?

5. What did Peter mean by “…repent and return…” in Acts 3:19?

6. Do your actions match up with your profession of faith in Christ?