

TRUE & FAKE DISCIPLES Luke 6:46-49

Hook to Start Conversation

Imagine you're at a football game, decked out in team gear, cheering loudly, and waving a team flag. To everyone around you, you look like the ultimate fan. But what if you're only there to please a friend or family member, and you don't really care about the team? How might this relate to what it means to call Jesus "Lord"? Share a time when you've seen someone (or maybe yourself) act one way on the outside but feel differently on the inside.

Summary of Luke 6:46-49

In the concluding section of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, He challenges His listeners to examine the authenticity of their discipleship. Jesus asks why some call Him "Lord" but fail to obey His commands (v. 46). He illustrates this with a parable of two builders: one who builds a house on a solid rock foundation by hearing and obeying Jesus' words, and another who builds on unstable ground without a foundation by hearing but not obeying (vv. 47-49). When storms come, the house on the rock stands firm, while the house without a foundation collapses. Jesus emphasizes that true disciples are marked by heartfelt obedience rooted in faith in Him, not mere outward profession. This passage underscores the Reformed emphasis on salvation by faith alone, which produces obedience as evidence of a transformed heart, and the Baptist focus on personal commitment to Christ as Lord.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text: Jesus asks, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (v. 46). What are some ways people today might profess Jesus as Lord but fail to obey Him? How does this challenge our understanding of what it means to be a Christian? Application: In your daily life (e.g., at school, home, or work), what is one specific command of Jesus you find difficult to obey, and why?

Exploring Fake Discipleship:

The sermon outlines reasons for fake discipleship, like cultural pressure, self-deception, self-interest, or intellectual assent without heart trust. Which of these resonates with you or someone you know? How can we guard against these tendencies in our walk with Christ? Application: Reflect on your motives for following Jesus. Are there areas where you're tempted to treat Jesus as a "means to an end" rather than the ultimate goal?

The Parable's Meaning:

In the parable, both houses face storms, but only the one built on the rock endures (vv. 48-49). How does this illustrate the difference between true and fake disciples? How does the Reformed doctrine of perseverance of the saints connect to the idea of enduring storms through Christ's strength? Application: Share a "storm" in your life where your faith was tested. How did trusting in Christ's righteousness (not your own efforts) help you stand firm?

Obedience and Grace:

The sermon emphasizes that true disciples obey Jesus, but this obedience flows from a heart transformed by the gospel, not from earning salvation. How does this balance of grace and obedience shape the way we live as disciples? Application: What is one practical step you can take this week to grow in joyful obedience to Jesus, trusting in His grace to empower you?

Hints for Middle and High School Sunday School Teachers

Middle School: Use relatable analogies to engage students, like comparing fake discipleship to wearing a team jersey without knowing the team's playbook. Break down the parable with a visual activity: have students draw or describe two houses (one on rock, one on sand) and discuss what "storms" (e.g., peer pressure, doubt) they face. Keep questions simple and encourage sharing personal experiences in a safe environment. Emphasize that Jesus is the foundation, not their own strength.

High School: Challenge students to wrestle with the tension between outward profession and inward heart change. Use role-playing scenarios (e.g., a teen who goes to church to please parents) to discuss fake discipleship. Connect the lesson to their world: ask how social media or cultural expectations might tempt them to "perform" Christianity. Highlight the Baptist emphasis on personal faith and the Reformed truth that Christ's righteousness secures their salvation, encouraging honest self-examination without fear.

General Tips: Keep discussions Christ-centered, pointing to Jesus as both Savior and Lord. Use the sermon's examples (e.g., Peter, Levi) to show how obedience flows from faith. Be sensitive to students who may feel uncertain about their faith; reassure them that doubts don't disqualify them, but Christ's grace sustains them. Encourage practical application, like praying for help to obey Jesus in small, daily ways.