

The Stories That Remain

Craig Sweeney | July 30, 2023

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Luke 6:37-38 NLT

Message Thread: The power of God operating in your life requires obedience at the heart level.

It’s about engaging and developing your friendship with Jesus.

INSIGHTS:

- **When you withhold grace, people will be more tempted to withhold grace from you.**
- **When you are free with your critical opinions, people will be tempted to be free with theirs about you.**
- **Forgive people and they, along with others, will be more likely to forgive you.**
- **When you give pieces of the kingdom of God to others, it will be given back to you in greater measures.**
- **The grace you give is what determines the grace you get back.**
- **You don’t have to give your opinion on social media.**

Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can one blind person lead another? Won’t they both fall into a ditch?”⁴⁰ Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.” Luke 6:39-40 NLT

- **I know you think I’m wrong, but actually you just don’t see what I know to be true.**

“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴² How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

Luke 6:41-42 NLT

- **You’re preoccupied with other people.**

“A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. ⁴⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.” Luke 6:43-45 NLT

What I’m really getting at is the state of your heart.

The answer is in what people experience when they experience you.

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ (Almighty, all knowing, creator of all, first and last, truth itself and highest authority in all things) when you don’t do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

Luke 6:46-49 NLT

The offer is:

1. **Listen.**
2. **Follow.**
3. **Solid Strength will reveal itself.**

To follow Jesus is to become like Him.

Challenge:

Jesus shows us how to see the power of God operating in our life.

- What, in your thinking and or doing, needs to change so you can be obedient at the heart level?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit DougBrittonBooks.com/resources.