

# Who is Lord?

Luke 6:46-49

## Preface

Show video on Lord of the Stool.

The video depicts a common struggle that we all face in our lives. We often say we want Christ on the throne of our life but our actions reflect something completely different.

Illus: Let me give an example from my own life. Several years ago, I felt convicted about watching R rated movies. I decided that supporting movies with foul language and God's name in vein wasn't for me and was not pleasing to God. I believe Hollywood would produce cleaner movies if people would just take a stand.

As long as the movies were love stories or "shoot-em up" movies, it wasn't hard to stick to my commitment. But recently the first new Clint Eastwood movie in years came out - Grand Torino. I grew up watching Clint Eastwood and he was one of my favorite actors. The lure of a Clint Eastwood movie has brought back fond memories and I have been extremely tempted to see Grand Torino. I have found myself rationalizing how I could justify breaking my rule. Recently I noticed it was on Pay-Per-View through our satellite service. I reasoned that I could watch it in the privacy of my home and no harm could be done from that.

But I can't do that. I must stick to my conviction and let God be on the throne of my life. What shame I would feel if I dishonor God by going against my convictions just to see a movie.

Often, we find ourselves shoving God off the throne of our life because we find His instruction unacceptable or against what we want to do. God's Word says that is a big mistake.

## Scripture - Read

<sup>46</sup> "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup> I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. <sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. <sup>49</sup> But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." Luke 6:46-49 NIV

## Introduction

Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. This short parable is about the importance of listening to God's word and living by it.

Let's look more closely at the meaning of this parable.

### 1. The consequences of not obeying

We live in a day when we look around and ask ourselves "**How in the world did we get here?**" How did we get so deep in debt as a nation? How did we get to a point where there is even a discussion about what constitutes a marriage? How did we get to a place where we deny God in our schools and any mention of Him in public life, yet every other off the wall nonsense is blasted at society daily?

How did we get to a place where our politicians are predominantly dishonest; where all that matters to them is their power? How did we get to a place where integrity and honesty are things of the past like the Mayflower and the Magna Charta?

How did we get to a place where the Lord's Day is no longer honored? Every week I hear a story about children in our community that are living with dead-beat parents who are alcoholics and drug addicts. It used to be that parents and grandparents would drag their children to church. Today it is just the opposite. Children want to come to church but can't seem to drag their parents to church.

How in the world did we get to the place where we are today?

I am going to give you the honest straight forward answer to that question. The answer is extremely simple and yet catastrophic in terms of turning things around.

How did we become such a dysfunctional society? The answer is "**One Christian at a time.**"

As individuals, we make the decision to take God off the throne of our life and put ourselves on the throne. People claim to be Christians but they are disobedient to God's word.

Heck, most people today do not even read God's word, let alone live by it and obey it. The Bible tells us how to live productive,

full, joyful lives yet we decide that it is too strict or too inconvenient for our desired lifestyle.

The Bible tells us to honor our parents and obey them. By the time we are teens, we are in the business of rebelling and doing whatever we can to shock them. That process gets uglier with each passing generation.

The Bible says not to take the Lord's name in vain. Many people do and we watch programs and movies that do. We are instructed to let our speech be of such that it glorifies God and honors Him. And yet the words that come from the mouths of Christians is often offensive and serves to tear down others.

Our Lord instructs us to honor the Sabbath and do not forsake worshipping with other Christians. We decide that going boating or sleeping in is more important; not occasionally but Sunday after Sunday.

God's word tells us to forgive our brother and hold no anger and bitterness in our heart. We decide that what our brother has done to us doesn't deserve forgiveness and we decide not to forgive and allow hate and anger to fester for a lifetime.

What about adultery, envy, jealousy and so many other things that we become consumed with today?

Jesus tells us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind. We respond by loving ourselves. We have made the decision to shove Jesus Christ off the throne of our lives and put ourselves completely in charge. We no longer worship the Creator; we worship the created, ourselves.

Is anyone proud of where we are today? Is anyone proud that we have almost 400 people on the role of our church and we do good to get 150 here on any given Sunday? Is anyone proud of where we are as a country? Are you proud that God can't be spoken of in our schools?

We are who we choose to be. We are reaping what we have sewn and the crop is not very pretty.

Jesus said the torrent will come and the house will be destroyed. Our decision to take Him off the throne of our life and not obey brings destructive consequences.

## 2. The rewards of obeying

A little over 200 years ago, a group of people were inspired by God to seek something called freedom. They sought the freedom not to live anyway they wanted but the freedom to live for God. The efforts of that small group of people were richly blessed.

By seeking the freedom to worship and live for God, they were blessed with a great nation. They declared their independence and celebrated that Independence every year. Perhaps you remember that holiday - Independence Day?

Their nation was founded on trust and faith in God. They even put God's name on their money. They built churches and worshiped God. They based their legal system on the principals of God's word. The things that were wrong in the Bible were wrong in their society.

God blessed the United States of America immensely. It became the wealthiest, most innovative, most productive nation in history. The people invented things and discovered better ways to manufacture goods.

It became the envy of every other nation. It was the most honored and most revered of all nations. Its people were blessed beyond measure. And the people were generous with their wealth. They helped others in need and sent millions to help disadvantaged countries. They even sent missionaries around the world to tell others about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The United States was a shining example of what can happen when people honor and obey God. When God is on the throne, God's resources are at our disposal. When God is on the throne, God's outcome comes bursting through bigger than we can imagine.

I don't know about you but I want to be a part of what God can do, not what I can do. There can again be the day when our churches are thriving; filled with worshipers seeking direction from God and the Holy Spirit.

There can again be the day when great things are happening in our churches. There can be the day when God is evident in our personal lives and we marvel at what He is doing in our lives.

There can again be a day when our country honors God and is proud to instill the Bible in the hearts of young children through

education. There can again be the day that honor and integrity supersede power and money.

God's word tells us these things are possible if we will do as His word says we should do. If we will honor Him and live in accordance to His word, our foundation can once again be strong; strong enough to weather the worst of storms.

But how can that happen? How can we turn the tide of destruction and denial that permeates our country from our homes to our churches, to schools and government?

The answer is **"One Christian at a time."**

You and I as individual believers must make the decision to live for God. We must make the decision to place Jesus Christ on the throne of our life and stand up for our Lord.

We must put Christ back in our homes. We must live, "flesh-out" if your will, what we say we believe. We say we are Christians; we must either stop lying or stop denying. It is time for God's people to live, walk and talk like God's people.

God is ready and willing to give us strong foundations, strong homes, strong churches and a strong country. God is eager to bless us with joy and prosperity if we will just do what he says.

## Conclusion

Illus: Yesterday a group of us went on a church family canoe trip. We only had a few from our church go but it was really a great time. We had a lot of fun and the water was perfect.

As we were riding a small bus from the parking area to the drop off point, the driver was quite eager to brag to the group about his great fishing and hunting accomplishments. He even had pictures to show us.

One lady at the front of the bus felt compelled to compete with his stories by offering up her own hunting stories about the number and size of the deer she killed this past hunting season. In her eagerness to convey the thrill, she began to use plenty choice words guaranteed to qualify her to fit in with any man's hunting club.

While I didn't enjoy hearing much of what she had to say, my ears are not to tender to tolerate her language. However, I was compelled to object on the behalf of the small children on the

bus. I politely said to her, "Mam we have small children on this bus."

To her credit, she apologized and stopped cursing.

I am not trying to put myself up as someone special. However, I want you to understand that this is what I am talking about. Three small children heard two things:

1. A woman who thought she needed to use various curse words to communicate; curse words they have been told not to say. Inconsistent with what they are hopefully being taught at home.
2. A man willing to her language as if it was unnecessary and inappropriate. Consistent with what they are hopefully being taught at home.

We need to start one Christian at a time, standing up for our Lord, what we believe and what He instructs. We must start in our own lives. We must start by objecting to our own language. We must object to our own actions and be who God wants us to be.

I close with a question, not my question but one directly from Jesus Christ. **"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"**