

Sermon 33: A Sober Warning Regarding False Teachers: Luke 6:22-26

Text: Luke 6:22-26 “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets...”

Summary: Christ warns those who market the faith for money, comfort, or pleasure that the temporary benefits they enjoy from this devastating compromise are deadly and deceptive.

Proposition: He wants us to treasure Him as He is, not use Him for our own purposes.

Introduction:

- **Religious faith is one of life’s most powerful motivators.**
 - Our conscience is shaped by what we believe.
 - Our passions driving how we live and what we would die for are shaped by what we believe.
 - What consumes our minds is shaped by what we believe.
- **No matter what modern men say, we’re all religious creatures.**
- **We’re live out of certain presupposition.**
- **We’re trusting in a worldview.**
 - Our “god” might be the state, culture, or our own bellies.
 - Whether our own intellect or view of self, we worship something.
- **Our highest need is to delight in the one true God:**
 - **Isaiah 44:6** “I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God...”
 - **Deuteronomy 6:4-6** “The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might...”
- **Our subtlest temptation is to use Him as a tool to our own purposes:**

- **Exodus 20:3** “Thou shalt have no other gods before me...”
- **Exodus 20:7** “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain...”
- **This concept is at the heart of Christ’s teaching in the verses.**

Part 1: Seeing the big picture:

- **This section addresses one major concept:**
 - Faithful disciples and worldly people have radically different values.
 - These values are in constant conflict and a surface observation will make you think the world is right and winning.
- **Faithful disciples are:**
 - **Humbled by their inability to make themselves acceptable to God:** “You poor...the poor in spirit...”
 - **Finding their sufficiency in Christ rather than the things of this world:** “Ye that hunger and weep now...”
 - **Viewed with disdain and viciously excluded, insulted, and undermined:** “Men shall hate you... separate you from their company...reproach you...and cast out your name as evil for the Son of man's sake...”
- **Worldly people have:**
 - **Prosperity:** “Woe unto you that are rich!”
 - **Abundance:** “Woe unto you that are full!”
 - **Pleasure:** “Woe unto you that laugh now!”
 - **Approval:** “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!”
- **Some very prominent believers wrestled with this tension:**
 - **Asaph: Psalm 73:3-5** “I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men...”
 - **Job’s friends: Job 4:7-9** “Whoever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off? Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same. By the blast of God they perish...”

- **The disciples: John 9:1** “As Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him...”
- **What we do with Christ is the watershed issue:**
 - **6:22** “For the Son of man's sake...”
 - **6:23** “For in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets...”
 - **6:26** “For so did their fathers to the false prophets...”
- **Some very specific truths:**
 - Who does He say that I am?
 - Will He accept my righteousness?
 - Who is He?
 - How exhaustive is His authority?
 - Is He the only way of salvation?
 - What was He coming to do and why does it matter?
 - Did He really rise from the dead?
- **Four Implications:** Since the world is set in opposition to the gospel.
 - It's going to cost something to align with the truth.
 - When the pressure builds, people will be tempted to compromise.
 - Faithful Christians will submit to the scripture's absolute authority.
 - False teachers will make adjustments for their own benefit.

Part 2: Cultivating discernment:

- **We can't be naïve and assume the best about everything we hear:**
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21** “Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good...”
 - **Revelation 2:3** “Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars...”
 - **Acts 17:11** “They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so...”
- **We must develop a responsible approach to processing everything we hear:**

- **Hebrews 5:13-14** “Everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness...strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil...”
- **2 Timothy 2:15-16** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness...”
- **2 Peter 3:16** “Some things hard to be understood...unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction...”
- **We must develop the courage to stand firmly upon what is true:**
 - **James 1:6-8** “He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed...A double minded man is unstable in all his ways...”
 - **2 Timothy 1:13** “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus...”
 - **Jude 1:3** “It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints...”
- **Discernment develops as the scripture transform our thinking:**

Romans 12:2 “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God...”

 - Scripture shapes our values.
 - Scripture transforms our ability to process what we observe.
 - Scripture changes whose opinions matters most.

Part 3: Applying the passage:

- **Be prepared to encounter false teaching:**
 - Some are purposefully deceptive.
 - Some are pragmatic and market driven.
 - Some are fearful and are attempting to avoid conflict.
 - Some are lazy.
 - Some are ignorant or naïve.
 - Some are greedy.
- **Be sobered by the devastating consequences of false teaching.**

- **Be consumed with the end of sound doctrine: knowing and walking with God.**
- **Establish a healthy pattern of being in the word.**
- **Follow a responsible approach to studying the word.**
- **Develop the necessary skills to do rigorous study.**
- **Be careful about what you digest.**
- **Learn to analyze what you hear before you make judgment.**
- **Interact with mature believers who have discernment.**

Conclusion: Let's treasure Him as He is, not use Him for our own purposes.