

## **How to Use Sermon Resources**

- **READ AHEAD TOGETHER** - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- **SIT UNDER THE WORD** - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- **APPLY TRUTH** - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

## **Small Group Discussion Guide**

**Opening Prayer** [ 2 mins ]

**Use the Overview** [ 5 mins ]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

**Scripture Deep Dive** [ 30-40 mins ]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

**Close in Prayer**

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

**Split Time (if applicable)**

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

## **SERMON OVERVIEW**

### **“Questions Jesus Asked: Why Do You Call Me Lord?” - Luke 6:43-49**

**Sermon Summary:** Pastor Michael addresses the gap between professing Jesus as Lord and actually living in obedience to Him. Drawing from Luke 6:46, the pastor challenges the congregation to examine whether they're treating Jesus as a true Lord or simply using Him for His benefits. The core message emphasizes that humanity's deepest problem isn't mere disobedience but the need for complete spiritual transformation—being made "brand new" rather than just improved.

#### **Key Points:**

- Jesus is the treasure, not just the provider of treasures; proximity to Him is the goal, not His benefits
- True discipleship involves three stages: coming to Jesus personally, hearing His words with understanding, and actually obeying them
- Obedience is not how we earn salvation but what flows from being made new; new life precedes obedient life
- Hearing without obeying is not spiritually neutral—it is spiritually deadly
- Storms and trials don't create our foundation; they reveal it
- Jesus took the ruin we deserved on the cross, offering complete transformation rather than circumstantial improvement

#### **Scripture Reference:**

- Luke 6:20-49 (primary focus on verses 46-49)
- Referenced: Matthew 5 (parallel account of the Sermon on the Mount)
- Referenced: Philippians 3 (Paul's teaching on counting everything as loss)

#### **Stories:**

- Michael's personal story about wanting to be a runner—buying all the gear, following hybrid athletes, learning about proper training, but hating running and never actually doing it—illustrating how we can adopt the identity and vocabulary of Christianity without practicing obedience
- The Parable of the Two Foundations (Luke 6:47-49): Two builders, one who dug deep and another who built without a foundation whose house immediately collapsed.
- The context of Jesus' early followers as a mixture of people—poor, desperate, disillusioned—who knew religious vocabulary but whose hearts were far from God, and who scattered when Jesus was arrested because they were fans seeking benefits rather than true followers

# Scripture Deep Dive

## Opening Question

“Luke 6:46 – Before we dive in, read this verse together. How does Jesus’ question expose the difference between being a ‘fan’ of Jesus (interested in his benefits) and being a ‘follower’ who actually does what he says? Use James 1:22–25 to support your answer.”

## Point 1 – Lip Service (Luke 6:46)

1. Luke 6:46 – In what specific ways can someone call Jesus ‘Lord, Lord’ (with urgency and the right vocabulary) yet reveal by their decisions that they relate to him transactionally—mainly for his benefits and not for himself? Compare this with Matthew 15:7–9 and explain how both passages describe the same heart condition.
2. Luke 6:46 – According to this verse and John 3:3–6, why is the problem behind ‘lip service’ deeper than lack of effort, and how does the necessity of being ‘born again’ change the way we think about obedience to Jesus’ commands?

## Point 2 – The House That Stands (Luke 6:47–48)

3. Luke 6:47–48 – Identify the three movements Jesus describes (‘comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them’). How does each movement correct a particular distortion of discipleship (for example, coming without hearing, hearing without acting, acting without truly coming)? Use John 6:66–69 to illustrate at least one of these corrections.
4. Luke 6:47–48 – Jesus says the wise builder ‘dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.’ Based on this parable and Colossians 2:6–7, what does it practically mean to ‘dig deep’ in your relationship with Christ, and how does this differ from simply relying on Christian tradition, feelings, or occasional spiritual highs?

## Point 3 – Sudden Collapse (Luke 6:49)

6. Luke 6:49 – The second builder also hears Jesus’ words but does not do them. Using this verse and Hebrews 3:12–15, explain why hearing without obedience is spiritually deadly rather than neutral, and how this danger can develop slowly in a church-going person.
7. Luke 6:49 – According to Jesus’ image of the flood destroying the house, and in light of 1 Peter 1:6–7, how do life’s ‘storms’ (suffering, temptation, disappointment) reveal what our foundation really is rather than create it? Give at least one example of how a storm might expose a foundation built on Christ versus a foundation built on something else.

## **Gospel Focus – The Lord Who Makes Us Brand New**

### **8. Brand New – Christ's Obedience and Ours**

Luke 6:46–49 and Philippians 2:5–11 – How does Jesus' perfect obedience (described in Philippians 2) provide both the basis of our salvation and the model for our obedience, and why must 'new life' in Christ come before a truly obedient life rather than the other way around?

### **9. Brand New – Treasure, Not Just Benefits**

Luke 6:46–49 and Philippians 3:7–12 – In what ways do these passages show that Jesus himself—not just his gifts or problem-solving—is 'the supreme treasure' of the Christian life, and how does seeing him as the treasure transform the way we respond to his hard commands?

## **5 Day Devotional**

### **Day 1 – Blessedness Reimagined**

**Reading:** Luke 6:20–26, James 2:5

**Devotional:** Jesus opens this section by completely redefining who is “blessed.” Instead of the rich, comfortable, and praised, He calls the poor, hungry, weeping, and rejected “blessed” because of their relationship to God and His kingdom. The world sees loss, lack, and weakness as failure; Jesus sees them as prime places for God’s nearness and reward. These verses invite us to question what we instinctively envy and what we instinctively pity. Real blessedness isn’t about circumstances but about where those circumstances are driving us—toward Christ or away from Him.

**Reflect/Pray:** Ask the Lord: “Where have I been secretly measuring blessedness by comfort, money, or reputation instead of by nearness to You?” Write down one area where you feel “poor” or “hungry” (physically, emotionally, or spiritually) and turn it into a prayer for deeper dependence and joy in Christ.

### **Day 2 – Loving as God Loves**

**Reading:** Luke 6:27–38, Romans 12:20–21

**Devotional:** Jesus commands a radical, unnatural love: love enemies, bless those who curse, pray for those who mistreat, give expecting nothing in return. These aren’t strategies for self-protection or social success; they are reflections of the Father’s own heart toward the “ungrateful and evil.” When we respond to hurt with mercy and generosity, we stop acting merely as “normal people” and start acting as “children of the Most High.” This kind of love is impossible in our own strength and forces us to rely on God’s Spirit at work in us.

**Reflect/Pray:** Think of one person who has hurt, annoyed, or opposed you recently. Ask God to show you one concrete way to obey Jesus’ words toward them: to pray for them by name, to speak a blessing instead of criticism, or to serve them practically. Pray, “Father, make my mercy toward others match the mercy You have shown me in Christ.”

### **Day 3 – The Honest Heart and the Hypocrite**

**Reading:** Luke 6:39–45, Proverbs 4:23

**Devotional:** Jesus uses vivid images—a blind guide, a log-eyed critic, good and bad trees—to expose the danger of hypocrisy. We’re naturally better at analyzing other people’s flaws than confronting our own, but Jesus insists that true help for others begins with honest self-examination. The fruit of our lives—our words, patterns, and reactions—flow from what fills our hearts. God’s goal is not a cleaned-up exterior but a transformed interior that produces genuine, consistent fruit.

**Reflect/Pray:** Ask the Lord: “Show me one ‘log’ in my own eye that I’ve been ignoring.” Confess it specifically to God, and if appropriate, plan to confess it to a trusted believer. Pray, “Lord, change my heart at the root so that the fruit of my life—especially my words—aligns with Your character.”

#### **Day 4 – Hearing and Doing**

**Reading: Luke 6:46–48, James 1:22**

**Devotional:** Jesus describes the wise builder as someone who comes to Him, hears His words, and acts on them. It is possible to be very close to spiritual things—to attend, listen, even agree—and still never truly obey. Digging deep for a solid foundation is slow, hidden work, but it is what enables a life that stands when floods come. Obedience does not earn God’s love; it reveals that we truly trust and treasure the One who has already loved us first in Christ.

**Reflect/Pray:** Identify one clear command or principle from Jesus that you know but have been resisting (in relationships, purity, finances, forgiveness, etc.). Ask God for grace and courage to take one specific step of obedience this week. Pray, “Jesus, I don’t want to just call You ‘Lord’—show me today how to act on what You’ve told me.”

#### **Day 5 – Foundations and Final Realities**

**Reading: Luke 6:49, Matthew 7:21**

**Devotional:** The second builder also hears Jesus’ words, but he does not act on them—and the collapse of his house is “great.” Storms don’t create the foundation; they reveal whether it was Christ or something else. Jesus warns that persistent hearing without obeying is not harmless; it is spiritually deadly and can mask a false profession of faith. Yet the good news is that Jesus took the ruin we deserved and offers to make us completely new, writing His law on our hearts so that obedience flows from love.

**Reflect/Pray:** Ask yourself honestly: “Is my pattern more like occasionally struggling yet repenting, or consistently hearing and shrugging off Jesus’ words?” If you sense you’ve been giving lip service without true surrender, turn to Him in repentance today and ask Him to be not just your problem-solver but your Lord and treasure. Pray, “Lord Jesus, remake me from the foundation up; I trust in Your finished work on the cross and ask You to make me truly new.”