

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Practicing To Be Like Jesus

With Shawn Woods

October 26, 2025



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

- **That's the goal of formation: to become like Jesus.**

Luke 6:41-49 (NLT) And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? 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. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. 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. So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 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. 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.

- **Jesus doesn't want you lost. He wants you to lead.**

V39: Then Jesus gave the following illustration: Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch?

V41-45: And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? 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.

V43: A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. 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.

- **Jesus calls you to something greater than drifting. He calls you to do as he did and he provides the blueprint to do so.**

V40: "Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is **fully trained** will become like the teacher."

V46-49: "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?..."

Luke 6:45: "a good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart."

Ezekiel 36:26: "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart".

- **It's about giving permission to Jesus to transform you at the deepest levels of your soul.**

Big Idea: Be with Jesus in His Word so you can become like Him in the world.

- **What's required in my life?**
- **What's optional?**
- **Who do you say I am?**
- **Who do you say you are?**
- **Where would you like me to start being intentional?**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Practicing To Be Like Jesus
#3 of 8 - October 26, 2025

Watch: Formation Part 2- Session 3 of Practicing the Way
[https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/867741?
session=867747&position=0](https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/867741?session=867747&position=0)

1. Have you ever had a moment in your discipleship where you felt “stuck,” whether in habits, unhealthy emotional patterns, or in your relationship to God?
2. With the paradigm of Intentional Spiritual Formation in mind, how have you participated in your own formation over the years?
3. How have you understood the Holy Spirit’s role in spiritual formation?
4. Have you had an experience of intentionally opening your pain and suffering to God? What did God produce in your formation through that experience.

Practice: Daily Reading of Scripture

Identify a quiet place that is distraction-free. This could be a corner in your home or a nearby park. Find somewhere that you can focus and be at peace.

Identify a quiet time. For many people, first thing upon waking is the best possible time to do this; but for you, it may be before bed, or while your baby is napping mid-morning, or on a lunch break. The general rule is: Give God your best time of the day.

Come to quiet. Start with a few deep breaths ... in and out of your nose, and let your mind and body calm down. This may take a few minutes. You’re not in a hurry. And then ...

Open your heart to God in prayer. Again, there’s no “right” way to pray. But you don’t have to start from scratch.

Read Scripture. Choose a section of Scripture or follow a Bible reading plan. As you read, you might want to notice what resonates with you, what emotionally lifts off the page and into your heart. Your goal is to listen for Jesus’ voice coming to you. This whole exercise can be done in five minutes, or it can easily take up to an hour — again, that’s up to you. The key is: Start where you *are*, not where you feel you “should” be.



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