

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

## "KNOCK OFF DISCIPLES" | LUKE 6:43-49 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

***What's a good example of a fake product or brand?***

### ***"2 Trees: Authentic Disciples Comes from the Heart" (Luke 6: 43-45)***

Just like a tree is revealed by its fruit and not just the label, so is a follower of Jesus revealed by their characteristics and not just motions. **What are ways people can be fake in following Jesus? What are ways to produce authentic characteristics of Jesus?**

### ***"2 Buildings: Authentic Disciples are Displayed in Obedience" (Luke 6: 46-49)***

Jesus uses an analogy of life being like building a house and seeing what happens when a storm or tough problem comes. These storms are guaranteed. **How do most people prepare for tough problems? How is following Jesus' teachings a different way to prepare for tough problems?**

Jesus points out the difference between a life withstand tough stuff and a life collapsing during tough stuff is obedience. **What are steps someone can take to start putting Jesus' teachings into practice? Why are these first steps sometimes the most difficult?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian makes a point that these two parables are a call for self-reflection, to think about the fruit and the foundation in one's life. **As you look at your own life, is there harmony between what you say and what you do? What did the latest storm of life reveal about your foundation?** Pray to ask God to renew your heart so that your good deeds will come from the goodness stored up in your heart like it says in Luke 6:45 so that you will be an authentic follower of Jesus.

## Knock Off Disciples

### I. Slide1<sup>video</sup> Announce:

A. Slide2-5 Lar: Baptism. CFLC. Real. Invite up Lasters Slide6-11.

### II. Slide12 Intro: Knock Off Disciples

A. Jesus now wraps up His sermon by calling for a decision.

1. He's asking, *do you want to be My disciples?*
2. He wraps His sermon up with what it is to be **an authentic disciple** of His
3. He uses 2 illustrations: fruit bearing trees and a well built house.

B. Slide12b Counterfeit items are a widespread problem today. *Forbes* in 2018 put out a list of the top counterfeit products: Nike coming in at #1 in the world. #2 Louis Vuitton. #3 Ray-Ban sunglasses. #4 Rolex (or as a guy tried to sell me in P.I. once Rolux)

1. Slide12c They even have knock off Croc's, ha! (they're called **Croc-off's**).
2. Jesus w/these 2 analogies is asking, *are you sure you're the real thing?* He doesn't want us to be **knockoff-disciples**. But real genuine disciples.
3. There are 2 simple marks of real genuine disciples: #1 authentic discipleship comes from **the heart**. #2 authentic disciples are displayed in **obedience**.

### III. Slide13a 2 TREES (43-45) READ authentic discipleship comes from the heart

A. Good fruit, bad fruit He's already been explaining in His sermon.

1. If you go to select a fruit tree when they're not in season, if you're not an **expert** it helps to have **the sticker** on it to tell you what it is. But if the tree is **bearing fruit** it's easy to point out and say, *oh that's an orange tree*.
  - a) So can I say it this way, *I don't care what sticker or label you have on you, show me the fruit.* (Mr Rolux). [the fruit of both trees reveals that trees character]

B. Slide13b It's a call to self evaluation.

1. Paul says in Galatians 5, “*The fruit of the spirit looks like love, sacrificial love. It looks like joy, even in sorrow. It looks like peace when we were afraid. It looks like patience in time of hardship. It looks like acts of kindness and goodness when you have no expectation of return. It’s marked by faithfulness in difficulty. Gentleness when you’re tempted to be harsh. It’s marked by self control.*” Tony Merida

- a) This is basically a *character sketch* of Jesus. How do we know if we are his disciples? *We will look like Him.*
- b) In vs.45 He gets to the real issue ... *the heart*. We don’t go out and try to **do something** to prove that we’re a disciple, it’s an issue with *the heart* (the heart = our control center).

C. *Slide13c* See *behavior* changes when the *heart* changes.

1. Take a young man who *doesn’t* care much about *taking showers, wearing deodorant, any cologne, or washing the car, nope*. Then one day he meets a girl and behavior changes.
  - a) He starts showering, wearing deodorant, *and* puts on so much cologne that you can’t light a match anywhere near his bedroom. He wants to wash your car, *and* now has 2 jobs.
2. It’s amazing how behavior changes *when* one’s heart changes.
  - a) So the key issue, the fundamental issue Jesus wants to get down to is ... *your loves ... What Are Your Loves?*
3. Ephesians ends w/this, *Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. That’s* how he defines the Christian, *it’s people who Love Jesus Christ. And* out of that love comes *everything else*.

D. *Slide14a* There’s an old famous book called *Holiness* by J.C. Ryle. In his chapter *Lovest Thou Me*, Ryle asks, *How do you know if a person loves Jesus Christ?* [free pdf]

E. He just likens it to other relationships that you have in life. *Here’s his list:*

1. *Slide14b* If you love a person you like to **think about** him/her.
2. If you love a person you like to **hear about** him.

3. If you love a person you like to **read about** him.
4. If you love a person you like to **please** him.
5. If you love a person you **like his friends**.
6. If you love a person you are **jealous** about his name and honor.
7. If you love a person you like to **talk to him**.
8. If you love a person you always like **to be with him**.
  - a) Do you love Him? Are those present in your life today?
  - b) What can happen is *lesser loves* can occupy our hearts. We call those idols. And those idols don't really love you. It's what Jesus refers to in the revelation about the church of Ephesus *losing their first love* (maybe for *lesser loves*).

#### IV. Slide15 **2 BUILDINGS (46-49)** READ authentic disciples are displayed in obedience

- A. Note: He started with Heart before Obedience. (don't flip flop this)
- B. No one starts their life by saying, *I wanna build my life on sand. I wanna get married have kids and have everything fall apart.*
  1. But what we don't realize is *our daily decisions* dictate what we are building our lives on. Jesus is saying you have 2 options.
- C. Slide16 BACKGROUND
- D. Many villages were built on hillside slopes. Usually the towns were divided by a valley. Houses were both built on rocks, and in some cases, one of the walls were hewn out of the rock.
  1. Other men, because of lack of space and because it was easier, built their homes near the edge of the valley, on the sand. Since the country is very dry and floods seldom occur, there is little fear. But during some rain seasons, the wadi can become a roaring river, washing the house away.
- E. Slide17a STORMS COME FOR EVERYONE
- F. Being a Christian *doesn't* exempt you from life's storms. Being a Christian gives you a *foundation* to stand on in the middle of life's storms.

1. Yet we all have thought or said, *How could this happen to me?* (I follow God, I go to church). Yet let's remember *followers of Jesus*, sometimes life's storms come *because you are a Christian*. *Because* you started serving in the children's ministry. *Because* you started being generous building God's kingdom.

- a) Hear Jesus' promise clearly, that storms, floods, and strong winds **will** be blowing upon the lives of even those with the right foundation. *Maybe it will be the storm of **cancer** upon a family member. Or the hurricane of **debt** upon your business. Or a tornado of **the dust devil** himself spinning family relationships into turmoil.*
- b) *So* don't be surprised when storms come, just remember you have something to stand on. *Here on earth **you will have** many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.* John 16:33 *NLT*

G. *Slide17b* THE ISSUE WASN'T ... that one man had the information and the other didn't (same *info*, *material*, *plans*). Both of these individuals **heard** the same words. *But* 1 chose to put Jesus words into *action* [Hearing is nec *but* if it stands alone it's *deficient*]

1. It comes down to one word ... **obedience**.

- a) **Judas** knew the vocabulary, *but* he did not **do the will of God**, and when the storm came, *his house fell*.
- b) *Slide17c* (47) **Everyone who comes to me** (that's *surrender*). He that **hears my words** (that's *discipleship*). He that **does them** (that's *obedience*).<sup>1</sup>

2. Being obedient to God's words are often times **difficult** in the short term, *but* **extremely beneficial** in the long-term.

3. *Slide18a* Q: Have you learned to **walk your talk**?

- a) Do people see a harmony between *what you say* & *what you do*?  
Between what you **claim to be** & what you **are**? Between your **belief** & your **behavior**? Between **conviction** & **action**?<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Griffith Thomas, pg.92.

<sup>2</sup> Excerpts taken from *Visioneering*, by Andy Stanley, pg.179.

4. We would all **fight for Freedom of Religion** in our country, **but** why don't we **live our lives** in such a way to show *the superiority of following Jesus*. That it produces better men and women, better marriages, better families, honest workers, good citizens?

H. **Culture** will **mold you** **and** **society** will **shape you**, it will forcibly **bend you** to its will, *for as long as you live on the sand*.

1. It's **not only** an issue that we've built our **lives** on the sand. **But maybe** you've built your **marriage** on the sand. **Maybe** you've built your **family** on the sand. **Today maybe** you realize you've built a whole **sandcastle kingdom!**

I. What I see in Jesus' illustration is in building your life: **1st**, **dig** your footings **deep**. **2nd**, build on a good **foundation**. **3rd** you must secure the house to the foundation (**well built**). **Then 4th**, build your life brick by brick, aka *decision by decision*.

1. **Ever take short cuts?** My 4x4 post in my backyard is my daily reminder of the importance of a good foundation (explain 37yr old wood fence leaning).

J. I will sum it up this way. *The Nuts and Bolts of Securing a House to Its Foundation*.

1. **Slide18b Know Jesus** (personally, intimately). **Know what He knows** (learn His Word). **Do it** (do His Word). **Desire to be like him every day** (follow Him)

K. **Jesus** doesn't want us to be *knockoff-disciples*. **But real genuine disciples**.

L. **And It's never too late to build a foundation**. *Yah but, the water is up to my neck. It feels like I'm drowning in so many areas*. It's never too late to build on the right foundation, or rebuild!

M. **Slide18c** *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I do not trust the sweetest frame but holy lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.*

1. **Edward Mote** in 1834 wrote this as a new believer. **The 1st time they were ever read was with a married couple whose wife was on her deathbed**. He pulled a folded up paper out of his pocket **and** there in that context he read, *On Christ the solid rock I stand*.



2. 20 years later became a Baptist minister, and the church was able to buy a church building. They wanted to put the deed in his name and he said, *“I do not want the **chapel**, I only want the **pulpit**, and when I cease to preach Christ, then turn me out of that.”* This man had learned the simplicity of where *real security is, in Christ alone!*

N. \* Come out tonight to hear more stories from the **Laster Fam**.

O. \* Come out **this Wed Night** for Psalm 65 + *extra worship*. (it's a praise song)

P. Keywords: disciple, glory, God, gospel, grace, holiness, Jesus, joy, love, peace, self-control, sin.

Q. *“Why are you so polite with me, always saying ‘Yes, sir,’ and ‘That’s right, sir,’ but never doing a thing I tell you? These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on.*

*“If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss.”*

message bible Lk.6:46-49