

**Upside Down Kingdom**  
*The Two Builders*

Community Group Script...

This week's parable comes from Luke 6:43-49...

**43** *"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. 45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*

**46** *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are 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. 49 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."*

If anyone knew the destructive force of water it was 1st century Palestine. As a point of comparison, Jerusalem and London each receive around 22 inches of rain annually, but while London has 300 rainy days, Jerusalem has only 50. What that means is that when it rained, it poured, which caused runoffs and flooding.

The picture that would immediately come to mind when the original audience was hearing this story would be that of a wadi.

A wadi is an Arabic term that refers to a river valley. Basically picture a dry stretch of land in between two rock formations. These areas were completely dry most of the year and completely under water due to flash floods the other times of the year.

Everyone would know that it would be completely foolish and idiotic to build a house in a wadi. Only someone with a few screws loose would attempt to do it.

Regardless of what else is involved, the main point of the passage is that your security depends on hearing and doing Jesus' teachings and the mere hearing and not doing leads to destruction.

This goes against our Enlightenment way of thinking which says, "to believe something is to know it." This is why making sure everyone believes the right things has been so important to us in our church movement. This is because we the reformation (and thus our restoration movement) is a product of the Enlightenment. But that is for a different study.

In the Biblical world, to know something was to do it or live it out. Looking good is not good enough. Knowing right is not right enough. We must actually put into practice what we know is right. I fear that many of us are educated well beyond our level of obedience.

To quote Dallas Willard, he said, “Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.” Christians, therefore, should work hard to put our faith into action, not for grace, but from grace.

Enjoy your conversation as you open God’s Word together. Be blessed!

### **LUKE 6:43-49 | DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In this part of Jesus’ sermon on the mount he’s addressing obedience. When you hear the word obedience, what is the first thing that comes to mind and why?
2. If you were going to summarize Jesus’ main point in this passage in your own words, what would you say? What relevance does Jesus’ point have for today?
3. Jesus essentially says that we are what we say and do—even when it’s hard to admit. In what ways have you tried to measure your love for God by your intentions instead of your actions. Why is this so dangerous/inappropriate?
4. Jesus’ teaching on obedience isn’t that we obey in order to receive salvation. Rather, true salvation always produces obedience. What happens when we believe that our salvation is based on our works? What attitudes does this produce?
5. Knowledge without obedience is pretty much useless in the kingdom of God. Historically, though, there’s always been an emphasis on knowledge. Why do you think that is? What steps can be taken to correct this and promote balance?
6. Is there an area of your life in which you clearly understand the will of God but refuse to walk in obedience? What all factors into that willful disobedience? From this passage, what would Jesus say about your disobedience?
7. Jesus warns that “floods will come” in our living of the Christian life. Suffering is inevitable. The floods of life expose the foundations of our faith. How has past obedience to God’s will prepared you for the suffering of life? How has past disobedience made present sufferings more difficult? Why is this so?
8. Share a time/situation in which you wanted to obey God but was not sure how.
9. In light of today’s passage, what are some concrete and practical steps you will take today so that you apply the Word to your life? How can we help?