

THE REALLY GOOD LIFE

(Life of Christ Series)

The Gospel of Luke

Jesus, The Master Teacher

(Bible Teaching – HIS Church's Main Purpose)

Jesus was not the founder of a new religion; He began a radically new way for knowing the true and living God. His plan was to bring spiritually dead souls to life through faith in Him as personal Lord and Savior. This 'regeneration' of their soul and spirit by the Holy Spirit would enable them to begin a whole new life of growing up spiritually into men and women being made more and more into the image of God in this life (*2 Corinthians 5:17*).

The Christian's life is so different from this world in which we live that it needs *continuing education* about God, His will and His ways (*Isaiah 55:8-9*). The natural wisdom and education of people without a personal relationship to God through Christ is sometimes helpful but it is also woefully defective about the deeper spiritual condition of men, women, boys and girls needing God's help (*Colossians 2:8-9*). Therefore 'Spirit-filled' Bible teaching is an absolutely essential part of the successful Christian life. Good Bible teaching is also an absolute essential of any church worth existing to give spiritual growth and development (*Ephesians 4:11-16*). Other things in choosing a church family are nice (programs, fellowship, music, etc.), but they become only religious cosmetics if Bible teaching is not the primary, underlying asset of everything being done in Jesus' Name (*2 Timothy 4:1-5*). Without regular, balanced, expository, practical Bible teaching, Christians and their churches become spiritually anemic, weak, ill and eventually die slowly.

For this reason, Jesus made it very clear that His apostles, disciples and all church leaders must be teachers of God's people (*Matthew 28:18-20*). Much of Jesus' public ministry was training the 12 and those who would come after them to be good teachers of the Word of God. His manner of teaching was creative, authoritative and stirred the souls of all who heard Him teach. He always used illustrations from life and nature; He was an expert in using the Old Testament Scriptures to support His teachings and even used Hebrew culture and humor to create the mental pictures that would move people to dedication or repentance. *Matthew 13:34* says: "***All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables and without a parable He did not speak to them.***" When Christ taught, and His disciples after Him, the Scriptures became like moving pictures of truth to whom they spoke.

Followers of Jesus Christ should always insist on accurate, creative, Spirit-filled Bible teaching in their pastors, elders, teachers in their church gatherings. All Christians are called upon to teach in some capacity (home devotionals, sharing with friends, witnessing, etc.) and should seek to develop this skill for the glory of God. Academic achievement and other kinds of skills (including the gift of exhortation / counseling) should always be secondary to teaching that challenges people to become all God wants them to be this side of heaven (*Colossians 1:28-29*). This life is one of preparation for our *final exams* before the Master when He comes (*1 Corinthians 3:11-17*).

'JESUS' MID-TERM EXAM'

(Prerequisites of Discipleship Majors)

Luke 6:39-49

"And He (Jesus) spoke a parable to them (the disciples / v. 20): 'Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.'

6:39-40

(Jesus was probably referring to the religious leaders and how the disciples would replace them as Kingdom teachers)

The Spiritual Eye Test

(A Parable to Check for Splinter Projection Syndrome)

“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.”

6:41-42

Christ-certified disciples must have their vision corrected first before they can help others.

Have you had an appointment with the Holy Spirit to check your spiritual vision lately?

Are there some spiritual or moral cataracts in your life that blur your view about others?

(See Proverbs 28:13 & 1 John 1:9 for the remedy)

The Spiritual EKG Test

(A Parable to Check for Spiritual Heart Disease)

“For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

6:43-45

Christ-certified disciples must have spiritual fruit from a Spirit-filled heart to serve.

Has the overflow of your heart passed the fruit-inspection of the Holy Spirit?

Is there any rotten fruit that is spoiling what is coming out of you lately?

(See Proverbs 4:20-23 & Galatians 5:22-24 for help)

The Spiritual Stress Test

(A Parable to Check for Salvation Neglect Psychosis)

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

6:46-49

Christ-certified disciples must be practically applying God’s Word to all of life.

Are you improving your life according to the spiritual fitness program of God’s Word?

Start doing what you are learning and life won’t fall apart so badly or often.

(See Proverbs 2:1-5 & Matthew 11:28-30)