



Sermon Notes

Term – Spring 2020

Series – The Gospel of Luke

Gathering & Date – the 10, 19 January

Title – Luke 6:27-49 (Build your life on the Rock)

Preacher – Paul Langham

Reading – Luke 6:27-49

You can listen to this sermon here: <https://www.ccweb.org.uk/Media/AllMedia.aspx>

Questions

Why is it so important that we are a 'Word' and 'Spirit' church?

Why are both essential? What happens if we overbalance towards either?

If Jesus told us to build on the truth of his Word, what should our approach to scripture be? Is it truly your rock?

Jesus warned that to build life on anything else will lead to collapse and total destruction. What do you think he meant?

Jesus begins by speaking to 'you who are listening' (v. 27). How much time do you give to listening to him? What is your regular pattern for listening to his Word?

Jesus calls us to do what is completely abnormal in human society – 'love your enemies' (v. 27). He fleshes that out in 7 ways – which ones apply to you?

1. do good to those who hate you,
2. bless those who curse you
3. pray for those who ill-treat you.
4. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also.
5. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.
6. Give to everyone who asks you,
7. and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

Jesus wants us to be like his and our heavenly Father (v. 35), who is *kind to the ungrateful and wicked*. He calls us to a life of mercy, based on the Hebrew word *hesed*, which can be rendered as 'When the person from whom I have no right to expect anything gives me everything'. What does that mean for you this week?

Jesus calls us not to judge or condemn – the language used is that of the law court, a judge handing down final sentence, delineating between good and evil, right and wrong, innocence and guilt. This is God's place alone, and a dangerous one for us to assume. Rather, we should forgive.

This is hard, and you may want to listen to this section of the talk again. To forgive is

- to imitate God, who has forgiven us everything
- to release the one who has offended us from their debt under judgement
- to liberate ourselves from the chains and bitterness of unforgiveness

We don't have to wait until we feel like forgiving – it's an act of will. How do you wish to respond to this today? You may need someone to come alongside you as you begin the intentional process of willing to forgive, even if you cannot feel like doing so.

Finally, Jesus tells us that we each have a storeroom inside us. It's called our heart and it's full. And what it's full of spills out of our mouths and into our actions.

This is a hard teaching, and it's why Word and Spirit together are essential. If we have only the Word, we are just like people in the Old Testament, trying their hardest to obey rules written on stone ... and failing. The prophets promised

a new way to live, as the Spirit of God lives within us – and Jesus has made good on this promise.

Use the following Scripture to feed you this week, and ask daily for a fresh anointing and filling of the Spirit of God.

¹⁹ I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ²⁰ Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Ezekiel 36

³¹ 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³³ 'This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Jeremiah 31:31, 33

¹¹ 'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire ...' Matthew 3:11

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