

Sermon Notes for Luke 6:43-45

Key verse: Luke 6:45 "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."

Our passage today comes from the section in Luke called the Sermon on the Plain and is parallel to the more familiar Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Here, Jesus talks about the nature of discipleship as more than just words. He invites us into a relationship with God which will change our hearts and in turn change our behavior. Recent studies on religion show that Christian leaders used to believe that the change pattern began with belief: believe, behave, belong. In other words, people believe in Jesus first, which changes the way that they behave which in turn gives them a feeling of belonging. However, postmodern people prefer to belong first; they long to be in authentic relationships which then impact how they live. The pattern now looks more like this: belong, behave, believe. As people relate to others and get a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves, they begin to live differently which then leads to seeing life differently, through the eyes of belief. Jesus seems to imply this relational-based pattern here: a relationship with God changes our hearts which changes our behavior and then leads us to see Jesus for who he really is. Faith involves more than just saying the right words or believing the right things or even keeping the right laws. Instead, the relationship with God changes the very essence of who we are.

What does this have to do with our topic on measuring success? Many times we become tempted to succeed at all costs because it makes us look good and we think we can do good things. But, if we lose our integrity in the process, we accomplish nothing. We may all nod our heads in agreement with this, but living it is harder than it seems. The world does not reward doing what is right; it rewards doing what is profitable and what looks good. So, we find bankers facing lawsuits because they stretched or withheld the truth in order to make profits. What about ourselves? Do we cheat on our taxes because it gives us more money? Do we step on people in order to promote ourselves? What is the cost of all of this? Jesus also asks: "What good does it do for a person to gain the whole world and lose their soul?"

So, how can we keep our soul intact? Jesus says its about bearing good fruit, which comes from a good and healthy heart. In reflecting on this passage, several others come to mind. Read the verses below and reflect on how Jesus may be calling you to cultivate the love in your heart in order to be successful in heaven's eyes.

- Jeremiah 17:10 (The Message) "I, God, search the heart and examine the mind. I get to the heart of the human. I get to the root of things. I treat them as they really are, not as they pretend to be."
- Matthew 7:16-20 (New Living Translation) "You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."
- Matthew 12:33-35 (New Living Translation) "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. 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."
- Psalm 1:1-3 (New Living Translation) "Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do."
- Ephesians 3:16-19 (New Living Translation) "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."

Ultimately, then, we do not make our tree good: a relationship with Jesus does. It changes our hearts and our lives, our actions and our beliefs. Then, we find true success in the eyes of our Creator. How might Jesus be calling you to cultivate this heart of love? How can you spend time basking in that unlimited resource? How can you let that love overflow into your words and actions and relationships daily? How can our outer lives reflect our inner hearts?

PRAISE SONGWORDS

I Will Rise Up

You're calling me to a deeper place, You're calling me to come away
This is the day that you have made, To walk in your love and your grace
And I will sing to you, My king forever and ever

I will rise up and worship your holiness. I will sing a song of your faithfulness
On the mountains, through the valleys, Your love will be my peace
And I will sing of your love for me.

Repeat from beginning, then:

I will rise up and worship your holiness. I will sing a song of your faithfulness
On the mountains, through the valleys, Your love will be my peace
And I will sing of your love for me. And I will sing of your love for me.

God Is Great

All creation cries to you, Worshiping in spirit and in truth
Glory to the faithful one, Jesus Christ, God's Son
All creation gives you praise, you alone are truly great
You alone are God who reigns for eternity.

Chorus: God is great and his praise fills the earth, Fills the heavens
And your name will be praised through all the world
God is great sing his praise. All the earth all the heavens
'Cause we're living for the glory of your name. The glory of your name.

All to you O God we bring. Jesus teach us how to live
Let your fire burn in us that, All may hear and all may see.

Chorus x3 then: The glory of your name.

How Can I Keep From Singing

There is an endless song, Echoes through my soul
I hear the music ring, And though the storms may come, I am holding on to the rock I cling

Chorus: How can I keep from singing your praise?
How can I ever say enough, how amazing is your love?
How can I keep from shouting your Name?
I know I am loved by the king, And it makes my heart want to sing

I will lift my eyes in the darkest night, For I know my savior lives
And I will walk with you, Knowing you'll see me through, And sing the songs you give. Chorus

I can sing in the troubled times, sing when I win.
I can sing when I lose my step and I fall down again
I can sing 'cause you pick me up, sing 'cause you're there
I can sing 'cause you hear me Lord when I call to you in prayer
I can sing with my last breath, sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels and the saints around the throne

How can I keep from singing your praise? How can I ever say enough, how amazing is your love?
How can I keep from shouting your Name? I know I am loved by the king and it makes my heart
I am loved by the king and it makes my heart,
I am loved by the king and it makes my heart want to sing.

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be, Consecrated Lord to thee
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

I am yours set apart for you. I am yours hungry for your truth
Take my life; you are all I live for.

I am yours set apart for you. I am yours hungry for your truth
Take my life; you are all I live for.

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Radical Hospitality

Vital Spirituality

Skyline

United Methodist Church

February 7, 2010

10:00 am



GATHER

(Please see the reverse side for song words)

I Will Rise Up

God Is Great

Children's Blessing

(Children are invited to go to Sunday School)

How Can I Keep From Singing

REVIVE

Scripture: Luke 6:43-45

(page 788 in your Bible)

Anywhere With Jesus (Skyline Praise Band)

Good News

THANKS

We Share Our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, & Service

SEND

Take My Life

We pray that God has drawn you deeper in relationship with Jesus Christ in worship today.
Here for the first time today? Please stop by the Welcome Desk to receive a gift!

THE MISSION OF SKYLINE CHURCH

We believe that God has called us to reach out to all people

seeking a deeper relationship with God, regardless of age, racial, ethnic or national origin,
physical or mental ability, marital status, religious experience,
affectional orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status,
welcome them into a community of followers of Jesus who freely choose to worship,
serve, and live together prayerfully and in peace following a Methodist understanding of
God's gift of grace, **equip them** to live as the Holy Spirit gifts and guides, and
send them to serve and reach out to all people in Christ's name.

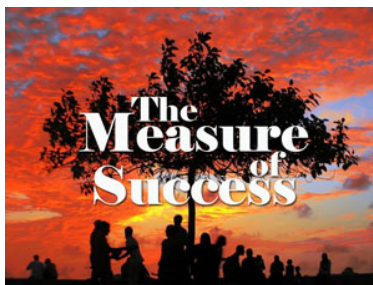
JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys & Concern cards are located in the sign-in booklet at the front of each row. Please fill out & place in collection tray or contact Sabra Barnes at mrsrabrab@comcast.net to forward your joy and/or concern to the prayer chain.

Pray for Karen Steenhoek's brother, Kirk & family who lost their farmhouse in Iowa on Jan. 28 to fire. Thankfully no one was home at the time.

Anonymous: Thank you, Skyline Church! Your love, courage & dynamic witness are our greatest life asset. We are truly wealthy because you love us so.

Upcoming Worship Series: Measure of Success



Beginning January 10, we'll examine what it means to be truly blessed by God. We will wrestle with the dangers of comparison in determining our self-worth and how to find our true value in Christ. We'll explore the only investments that last beyond the grave: our relationships with God and people. We will discover how to strengthen the portfolio of our souls and how to risk spending our lives to care for others.

February 14 Luke 10:25-37 Spend Yourself on Others Risk it all to care for others.

New Series: **Walk Humbly With God**

Sermons are online (skylinechurch.net); or as free sermon CD's at the sound booth.

SKYLINE CONTACT INFORMATION

Co-Pastors: Vicki & Bo Gordy-Stith (pastors@skylinechurch.net)
Pastor of Congregational Care: Ruthann DeJulius (rkdejulius@verizon.net)
Administrative Assistant: Pat Foster (office@skylinechurch.net)

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Web page: www.skylinechurch.net (submissions to web@skylinechurch.net any time)

Bulletin: Church Office office@skylinechurch.net or (737-9069) by Wednesday.

Questions, Comments or Concerns? Let us know by completing one of the yellow cards located at the side entrance in the foyer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Worship Team:

Welcome Desk: Lyn Frazier
Coffee Server: Tom DiCampi
Ushers: Kathy & Pete Ans
Music: Skyline Praise Band
Scripture: Luke 6:43-45
Scripture Reader: Tom DiCampi
Special Music: Skyline Praise Group
Preacher: Pastor Vicki
Counters: Chris Cooper, Peg Hart, Ron Durbin
Sound: Tom Good
CD Production: Adam Bragg
Songshow: Emily Ilyas
Prayer Team Leader:

CARING

Ruthann DeJulius, our Pastor of Congregational Care, is ministering to victims of the earthquake in Haiti. You can read about her experience online at <http://rainhaiti.blogspot.com/>. We will update the blog as often as Ruthann can get reports to us out of the UN Building near the airport where she is sleeping (sometimes!).

Following service each Sunday, a Caring Pathway Ministry Prayer Team member is available in the Prayer Chapel—to the right of the sanctuary—to pray with you.

Grief Care Group—meeting Feb. 25 at 6:30 pm in Room 4. Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one is invited to come to listen, share and support one another in a healing journey. Contact Julie DiMatteo (824-1548) with questions.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Please sign up to assist in the Nursery:

There are many weeks where no one has signed up. Sign-up sheets are on the wall next to the nursery door.

All kids should go to the Chapel after Children's Blessing after which the older 3's thru Grade 1 will go to Room 3 and Grades 2-6 will go to Room 18. Please remember to pick your children up promptly after service. Thanks!

FACILITIES

Thanks to our Trustee team & Henry Kuratle who have been working hard to keep our parking lots & sidewalks safe throughout the winter season—and to our cleaning volunteers who work hard every week to clean & maintain our facilities.

MISSIONS

This week's "Go Green" tip is reuse & recycle old & used books by having a "book swap party" or donate them to your local library. Whenever possible, buy local produce as it is fresher and you are also supporting our local farmers/growers. For more "green" info go to www.thedailygreen.com & www.sierraclub.org.

Volunteer to prepare/serve a meal to the homeless men at **Andrew's Place** in Wilmington the 3rd Saturday of each month at 5pm. It's easy & fun and children can come too! Contact Karen Roof (239-0919) or Barb Weaver (737-1715) or sign up on the Missions

bulletin board.

Friendship House is in need of supplies due to winter sanctuary & several Code Purple nights: coats, socks, scarves, gloves, coffee, sugar and creamer. The donation drop-off box is located in the foyer outside the church office specifically for this immediate need. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Donate used/new athletic shoes (size 7 and up) or men's dress shoes to help lift a family in Africa out of poverty forever. Tie sneakers together with shoelaces & drop in the barrel located in the foyer by the elevator.

SMALL GROUPS

Pastor Bo is hosting a reschedule of the **Men's Ski Trip** this Tuesday, Feb. 9 to Blue Mountain. Meet in the upper church lot at 6am & return by 8pm. Cost is \$35 (with business card), plus ski rental (if you need it) \$33. Please let Bo know you plan to join us at pastors@skylinechurch.net.

Interested in becoming a Member of the Skyline Faith Community? Pastor Vicki will be leading a group Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45 in the Chapel from February 21-March 21. It's a great way to meet new people and to find out more about this church community. All who are interested in joining the church will be welcomed during Easter worship on Sunday, April 4. Contact Pastor Vicki through the church office or e-mail pastors@skylinechurch.net, or sign up on the foyer bulletin board.

Spirited Singles "First Sunday-of-the-month Brunch Club" meets today at the Courtyard by Marriott on Rt. 896, UoFD, Newark immediately after worship service.

8-Week Bible Study: Pastor Bo leads a Bible Study, "Reading the Bible With Mind and Spirit", now thru March 7 from 9-9:45 am in Room 19. Contact Pastor Bo (373-5143) for more information.

4-week Study on How God Changes Your Brain: Remember the book Pastor Vicki mentioned in the fall about the positive results from meditation? Come join us on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 a.m. thru February 7 for a conversation about the book and how to put it into practice. Contact Pastor Vicki (373-5062) for more information.

Drummers For Jesus: meets on the last Friday of each month from 6-8 pm in the sanctuary—Come jam for Jesus with Carl Immediato and "Delaware Drummers for Jesus" (DDFJ). DDFJ invites drummers & wannabe drummers passionate for celebrating the good news through the art of drums, percussion & rhythm. Plan to attend & experience this unique worship event. For more info & to pre-register, visit www.drummersforjesus.info. Visit www.DrummersForJesus.com Interna-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

tional for background information.
Spirited Singles Adventure -Sunday, March 7! After worship head to Dover for our "First-Sunday-of-the-Month Brunch Club" at When Pigs Fly. Then, off to the Smyrna Opera House for a FREE performance of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" at 2:30 pm. Respond to Curtis Marker (302-736-6826) by Jan. 31.

Women of Faith's "Over the Top" 2010 Conference will be here before you know it! Pick up a flyer from the bulletin board with all pertinent info. Then register on the sign-up sheet by including your \$89 check in the envelope provided. Want more info? Contact Barbara Ann at (barbaraann@dca.net or 239-2211).

WORSHIP

Emily Bissell Sunday Services: Every 2nd Sunday of the month, SUMC provides a church service to residents of Emily Bissell. Contact Dave DeJulius (235-7577 or dmd038@verizon.net).

YOUTH

Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups will go ice skating at Rust Arena from 1-3 pm today. Cost is \$10. Plan to meet in the lower lot at 12:45 if you need a ride (we'll return by 4 pm, after we enjoy celebratory parfaits at McDonald's—for \$1). No evening meetings.

Help JrHi Youth Efforts to Go Green! Recycling wastebaskets are in each kitchen & in the coffee service area & downstairs hallways to collect cans, plastic & glass bottles & office-type paper. Remove lids & empty liquids before depositing.

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Appeal: The graphs in the Financial Stewardship Update box show that we continue to run a deficit. It is increasingly difficult to pay our fixed expenses, and we are unable to pay Conference and District Apportionments. Skyline's approved budget requires \$7500/week. Subtracting approximately \$900/week for Apportionments leaves \$6600/week. Average receipts towards our trimmed, "bare bones" budget are far less than needed. Cost control of variable expenses and donations of time and money have helped. **We thank all of you for your consistent financial support and for considerations of increased giving that are vital to continue God's ministry and mission at Skyline.**

Church Calendar

February 7 Sunday

Baptism Sunday
Become a Good Tree (Luke 6:43-45)
Food Cupboard Collection
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Pancake Breakfast (Foyer)
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM "How God Changes Your Brain" (Rm4)
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM "Reading The Bible With Mind & Spirit" (Rm19)
10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School
12:00 PM Singles Brunch
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Youth Ice Skating @ Rust Arena

February 8 Monday

7:00 PM Adult Drama Prax (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM Finance (Rm19)

February 9 Tuesday

6:30 PM Dance Rehearsal (Foyer)
7:00 PM BANO Prax (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM Pastor/Lay Leaders

February 10 Wednesday

Pathway Reports to office@skylinechurch.net
7:30 PM Choir Prax (Rm.19)
7:30 PM - 9:15 PM MCMO Prax (Sanctuary)

February 11 Thursday

7:00 PM BAN (Beyond Affairs Network) (Rm6&9)
8:00 PM AA (Chapel)

February 12 Friday

Lincoln's Birthday
Pastors' Sabbath
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Carol Stevens (Rm 19)

February 14 Sunday

Choir Sing
Spend Yourself on Others (Luke 10:25-37)
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM "Reading The Bible With Mind & Spirit" (Rm19)
10:00 AM Worship & Sunday School
1:30 PM Emily Bissell Worship
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Sr. High Youth (Rm6&9)
7:00 PM Jr. High Youth (Rm17)

Financial Stewardship Update

Thanks to everyone for your continuing & generous support of Skyline's operating budget & special mission opportunities.

If you have brought a monetary gift to share with the Skyline community, please place them in the basket at the back of the church as you leave.

