

5. Get an **ear** check-up.

READ Luke 6:46-49 Mark what stands out to you.

⁴⁶ "So why do you keep calling Me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it's like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then follows it.

⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

Jesus wants His followers to not only **hear** the Word of God, but to **act** on what they hear by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Action is the **proof** that one is a true follower of Jesus.

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Luke 6:46-49. *I.E.—When I follow Christ by (1)listening to Him & (2)doing [obeying] what He says – there will be stability in my life regardless of whatever circumstances may be going on.*

Conclusion

What Jesus **said** was really important; what Jesus **did** was more important. He died on a cross because He loved us, so that we could be **forgiven** of our sins and become part of **God's family**.

The same is true for us and for LFMFC. What we **say** is really important, but what we **do** is more important. **Actions** speak louder than **words**.

Luke 6:46 "So why do you keep calling Me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?" (Jesus)

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** was the most significant scripture for you this week? _____

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you at this time in your life?*

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about this week?

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date _____ (2) **Progress** Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____
/ _____ / _____

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church

(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on October 29, 2017)

How We Should Live as Part of God's Family

Series: Luke

As important as a yearly **physical** exam may be for our bodies, the Scriptures encourage us to conduct a personal **spiritual** exam of our **faith in Jesus**.

2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.*

Jesus doesn't just relate to people where they are and give them comfort; He challenges them to **step it up to a higher level**.

Jesus issued these challenges after **praying** all night.

READ Luke 6:12 *One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and He prayed to God all night.*

^a **Luke 6:12** – The Gospel writers note that before every important event in Jesus' life, He would take time to off by Himself and pray. This time Jesus was preparing to choose those who would succeed Him and help to fulfill His mission, the 12 apostles. What a tremendous model for us to follow – always grounding key decisions in life in prayer.

^a Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,200

Some examples of the **higher level** of living that Jesus taught:

1. Treat **others** the way you want to be **treated**.

READ Luke 6:27-31 Mark everything that stands out to you.

²⁷ [Jesus said,] "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. ³⁰ Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. ³¹ Do to others as you would like them to do to you."

^a **Luke 6:27** – The Jews despised the Romans because they oppressed God's people, but Jesus told the people to love these enemies. Such words turned many away from Christ. Jesus wasn't talking about having affection for enemies; He was talking about an act of the will. You can't "fall into" this kind of love—it takes conscious effort. Loving our enemies means acting in their best interests. We can pray for them, and we can think of ways to help them. Jesus loves the whole world, even though the world is in rebellion against God. Jesus asks us to follow His example by loving our enemies. Grant your enemies the same respect and rights as you desire for yourself.

^a Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,201

We want Jesus to take **our side** when we have **conflicts**, but Jesus says we are to **love, pray for,** and **be charitable** to those who oppose us.

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Luke 6:27-31. _____

Verse 31 is called the Golden Rule.

Jesus laid a foundational principle when He said to love our enemies and then shared six spiritual practices to apply to our lives.

- A. Do good to those who oppose you.
- B. Bless those who talk badly about you.
- C. Pray for those who hurt you.
- D. When insulted, turn the other cheek.
- E. Give people the resources they need.
- F. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

2. Be just as merciful as your Heavenly Father.

READ Luke 6:32-38 Mark everything that stands out to you.

³² "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!" ³³ And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! ³⁴ And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. ³⁵ Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for He is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. ³⁶ You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. ³⁷ Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." (Jesus)

^a **Luke 6:37, 38** – ³⁷ "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." (Jesus) A forgiving spirit demonstrates that a person has received God's forgiveness. Jesus used the picture of measuring grain in a basket to ensure the full amount. If we are critical rather than compassionate, we will also receive criticism. If we treat others generously, graciously, and compassionately, however, these qualities will come back to us in full measure. We are to love others, not judge them.

^a Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,202

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Luke 6:32-38. I.E. — There are three "If → why" statements in the beginning of this passage. These are used in illustrations of my selective actions and wrong expectations of results. [There is much more in this passage. Now write your observations and thoughts. Try to keep it personal by using I, me, or my.]

God wants those who don't know Him to see Jesus in the loving, good, and generous lives of those who have accepted Him.

Jesus continues to challenge and motivate us to a higher level of righteousness.

3. Get an eye check-up.

READ Luke 6:39-42 Mark what stands out to you.

³⁹ Then Jesus gave the following illustration: "Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch?" ⁴⁰ Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher. ⁴¹ And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴² How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."

^a **Luke 6:41** – Jesus doesn't mean we should ignore wrongdoing, but we should not be so worried about others' sins that we overlook our own. We often rationalize our sins by pointing out the same mistakes in others. What kind of "specks" in other's eyes are the easiest for you to criticize. Remember your own "logs" when you feel like criticizing, and you may find that you have less to say.

^a Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,202

REFLECT Write your thoughts from Luke 6:39-42. _____

4. Get a heart check-up

READ Luke 6:43-45 ⁴³ "A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. 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."

^a **Luke 6:45** – Jesus reminds us that our speech and actions reveal our true underlying beliefs, attitudes, and motivations. The good impressions we try to make cannot last if we are being deceptive. What is in your heart will come out in your speech and behavior.

^a Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,202-2,203

The fruit of a tree is an indication of the underlying nature of the tree. Likewise, a person's actions, words, and attitudes are an unfailing indication of the state of their heart.

REFLECT Write your observations and thoughts from Luke 6:43-45. I.E. I can discern if I am truly following Christ by the product of my life —what I say, how I speak to & treat others—by how people respond to me. One's actions and the results of their lifestyle reveal their true identity—

who they really are on the inside.
