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SERMON TITLE: Two Houses
SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:46-49
DATE June 12, 2022

Online service at www.fpcd.org/live-stream

Read also Psalm 111.

Jesus begins his conclusion with these words: "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (v. 46)

He connects his position as Lord with the necessity of obedience. That seems a little parental. Do you find yourself resisting? Are we autonomous? Or, are we his subjects?

Lord (κύριος), means one who has full control of something. κύριος means that person has power over you in both the realm of morality and legality.

Jesus, as Lord, teaches us certain moral standards. He also has power in terms of laws. For example, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. And, "Love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus said. (Lk 10:27)

"Lord" means someone has full control over you in terms of legality.

Queen Elizabeth, who just celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, exercises the power of "Lord" in the realm of her subjects. Their national anthem, "God Save the Queen," acknowledges that:

*God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.*

*Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.*

She has been "Lord" over Britain for seventy years through her commitment to serve her country, and their willingness to be her subjects.

But sometimes queens are deposed, like Mary, Queen of Scots, who was replaced by her one-year-old son. She had been the queen for her entire life, but when her husband died, her claim to the throne was weakened. There was great rivalry from other family members. Opponents threatened her life; she was thrown into prison; and her son was proclaimed king. Eventually, she lost her head. It can be tough to be the Queen.

Human royalty is not absolute. Sometimes others defeat a human lord, like Queen Mary. But Jesus' lordship is absolute.

κύριος means Jesus is not just Lord while on earth, but his Lordship has the concept of ownership.

The Nicene Creed states this:

*"We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; **through him all things were made.**"*

Absolute lordship is the realization that Jesus, as Son of God the Creator holds absolute power, and as such, is the absolute authority.

This arises through biblical revelation.

But we, as people, just like the people to whom Jesus was talking that day, often think of subordination to our Creator as optional. And now Jesus tells us he is "Lord." And he tells us things we must do. It might seem threatening or overwhelming or 'where are the checkboxes where I can pick the ones I like and ignore the rest!'

Worldly lords have powerful influence. They can exercise authority for the good or for the bad. They can depose and murder, or work for 70 years for the good of their people, like Queen Elizabeth. They have the force of law.

But Jesus' attitude is not to wield power. His attitude is that of a loving, forgiving God. Although his lordship is absolute, Jesus woos us into his obedience and reconstructs the relationship of lordship. "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (v. 46)

He does not throw us into prison or chop off our heads but **woos us to place our lives under his lordship.** Those who embrace his lordship have this to expect: **READ:** Lk 6:47-49 (below)

PRINCIPLE #1

We have the autonomy to put ourselves under the lordship of Jesus Christ. This is a gift. How do we do that? What steps do we take?

- **Come to Jesus** – There is nothing special about this word “come to Jesus.” It is simple.

When I was a child, and we kids might be playing one or two houses down when, about 5:30 I would hear my mother’s voice calling out—GINGER. I did not wear a watch but I just knew because she called me to come that I needed to come to her: ‘time to go in for dinner.’ My brother and I headed for the house.

The father of the children next door would call his sons with a specific whistle. When they heard that whistle, they responded to his authority, pronto.

There are other ways Jesus calls us. In Luke 5 one of my favorite stories is that where Jesus asks Peter to take him fishing. Though Peter had fished all night without catching anything and he was reluctant, he answered Jesus’ call. When he did, Jesus helped him catch so many fish it was obvious—there was something special about this man.

When Jesus calls, you know it. It is a higher call. You respond, even when you may be reluctant.

PRINCIPLE #2

- **Listen to His Teaching** – Do your homework.

When you got your first car or you borrowed your dad’s, did your dad say, before you can drive that you have to know how to change a tire (or put gas in it, or change the oil, or ____). My dad did just that, and I admit, it does help to listen.

When you bought your first house, did you get any advice about how much to borrow so you wouldn’t be strapped? Did you learn about all those extra bills that come along with a house, like taxes, insurance, and utilities? Did you learn about taking care of the air conditioner so it does not go out (in July)?

There are many stories in the Bible that help us navigate life. Like: keep on praying. Do not worry. Have faith because God will take care of your needs. Forgive. Be generous. Do not judge and you won’t be judged. Apply them.

PRINCIPLE #3

- **Follow What I Say** – James, Jesus’ brother, calls this “doing the Word.” (Ja 1:22)

Jesus says you, his sheep, recognize his voice and come to him. He calls you by name, walks ahead of you, and you follow his voice because you know him. Jesus said, “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (Jn 10:3-4, 10) This is wooing us to his Lordship because it is the best place to be.

Are you looking for something less demanding? Is Jesus’ lordship too great for you? Are you pondering, is this life of faith worth the price? Can I take Jesus in smaller doses and keep some

of my life as my own? I cannot answer these questions for you, but I can tell you the gain.

THE GAIN

Let me describe the firm foundation of being “in Christ Jesus:”

- It is a relationship where there is right now no condemnation because the Holy Spirit lives in you to help you follow Jesus.
- His Spirit helps you relax into His peace.
- When bad things happen, we know that we are loved because God is for us.
- If God is for us, who can be against us? No one can accuse you.
- Jesus prays for you all the time.
- Jesus loves you no matter what happens, however bad.
- No matter your circumstance, nothing can shake you—you have overwhelming victory, whether in death or life.
- “Neither today’s fears nor tomorrow’s worries -- not even the powers of hell can separate you from God’s love” (Ro 8:38).

These last few weeks contain the lessons that lead us to the Jesus lifestyle. He is LORD so now is the time to give Him his rightful place.

How does your house’s foundation look? Two houses. One stands. One falls. It is your choice.

AMEN

LUKE 6:47-49

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 the 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 without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”