



24: JESUS ROCKS! (Luke 6:43-49)

Psychcentral.com defines “Enochlophobia” as an irrational fear of crowds. A person with this phobia experiences high levels of anxiety when they’re in a crowd or just thinking about being in a crowd.

Many people with enochlophobia do their best to avoid crowds in any situation. They may avoid:

- movies
- parties
- festivals
- theme parks
- concerts
- Or any other place that might draw a lot of people¹

This must be a tough fear to have, and I’m glad there’s online Church services for Christ followers who may struggle with Enochlophobia.

But that’s not what I’m talking about here, I’m getting to a metaphor.

¹ <https://psychcentral.com/anxiety/enochlophobia#what-it-is>

We, as Christ followers, need a certain degree of “Spiritual Enochphobia”. We need a certain fear of what the crowds are doing- what they’re drinking, saying, prioritizing, spending money on, snorting, eating, swallowing, and smoking! Jesus calls us into healthy spiritual enochphobia! Why? Jesus said it Himself when He said, “the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. But narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it!” (Matt. 7:13b-14)

How can we be sure what the narrow gate is? How do we know that we’re bearing fruit for Jesus? How can we really be sure that our life is built on Christ the solid rock?

Jesus taught us in Luke 6:43-49. Let’s dig in! He said;

43 “A good tree doesn’t produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn’t produce good fruit 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren’t gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 A good person produces good out of the good stored up in his heart. An evil person produces evil out of the evil stored up in his heart, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart. (Luke 6:43-45)

How can one know the character of a person? Jesus says to check the fruit. A good tree bears good fruit, not bad, and vice versa; every tree is known by its fruit. A bad tree cannot yield good fruit, nor a good tree bad fruit. The agricultural illustrations Jesus used drew from Palestinian everyday life, and depicted people. Good people produced good deeds from a good heart, while evil people sprouted evil deeds from a destructive heart.²

One wasn’t gonna get figs from thornbushes! One wasn’t gonna get grapes from bramble bushes! You don’t pick bananas off of pricker bushes! Someone needs to hear this today... Stop expecting that toxic person in your life to all of a sudden be good for you!

And let me ask you today, is your life bearing **good** fruit or **bad** fruit?

I’m not saying that salvation in Christ isn’t a free gift. It is! But those who have truly been rescued by Christ will bear some sort of fruit out of His life living in them, that’s a fact!

Maybe it’s time for a “fruit check”!

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Fruit check step #1: Is the fruit of the spirit coming out of your life? The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23a) I want you to ask God genuinely right now if any of these things are true of you! And then, if you're not a narcissist or sociopath, reflect on whether others say that they see these things coming out of you. Would people say that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control characterize their experience with you? And if that's true do you give credit to Christ who put all of these things in you?

Fruit check step #2: Now take a moment and ask God if bad fruit is in your life. Paul says before he writes about the fruit of the Spirit that "the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar." (Gal. 5:19-21a) And the opposite of the fruits of the Spirit would be lovelessness, joylessness, peacelessness, impatience, unkindness, wickedness, unfaithfulness, harshness, and no self-control. Ask God to do a "bad fruit check" in you right now! Are any of these things in your life? And then, if you're not a narcissist or sociopath, reflect on whether others say that they see these things coming out of you or not.

Do people know you as a sex freak? An addict? Hateful? Someone who stirs up strife between people? Jealous? Angry and enraged? Selfish and self-centered? Divisive? A drunk?

Ask my wife and kids. My family has seen me battle anger all the time that they've known me. They have also seen Jesus work on me and convert my anger issues gradually!

Be honest now. We all struggle with stuff. And no matter how far along we are in our life or walk with Jesus we still have struggles. Admit them! Ask for accountability from trusted people in them! Get mentored by disciples of Jesus that are further along than you are! Get into discipleship spaces that are healthy and life giving!

And how else do we know what kind of tree we are and what kind of fruit we're producing? Jesus talked about what comes out of our mouths. "Out of the abundance of [one's] heart [one's] mouth speaks." James made similar remarks in James 3:1 - 12. The tongue is a litmus test of the soul, and the product of one's life is a litmus test of the heart. Each one should examine one's own self in this regard, not others.³ Remember? We gotta remove the planks from our eyes!

³ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

And what comes out of our mouths can be loving or loveless, joyful or joyless, peaceful or peaceless, patient or impatient, kind or unkind, good or wicked, faithful or unfaithful, gentle or harsh, and self-controlled or hazardous and tactless.

The mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart! In Jesus' day, the heart stood for the whole person in both Hebrew and Greek thought. The heart was the center of the body's essential functions: physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual. The heart was seen as the dwelling place of the Spirit (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 3:17). Jesus' point here was that a person's actions flowed out of inner attitudes and choices, whether these were "good" or "evil."⁴

What people say says a lot about who they are! What they talk about says a lot about what's ***inside*** of them. If we have Christ through the Holy Spirit inside of us, that will radiate from us. If we have ourselves and the demonic ruling inside of us, that'll come out of us too.

I love that Pixar movie "Inside Out", where a little girl going through puberty named Riley has inner characters of Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust, and Anger that literally live inside of her and interact with each other. When one of them takes over the others "inside" Riley, Riley totally personifies that character in the moment of her "outside" life.

And the beautiful thing about that movie is it's all about the maturing process. Riley goes from being a kid with kid-like joy, sadness, fear, disgust, and anger, and then puberty causes all these characters within her to mature along with her. You see how a beautiful redemption of all these character traits happens.

And Jesus doesn't hate your inner emotions and all the different parts of you! He actually loves them all and wants to redeem them! Give your joy to Him! Give your sadness to Him! Give your fears to Him! Give your disgust to Him! Give your anger to Him! He knows better what to do with these things than you do!

Jesus' remarks here were not designed to examine individual moments in life but the pattern of a career-long walk with God. ***Everyone*** sins or perhaps even goes through a ***period*** of sin! Such people may deeply regret their failure afterwards, yet it can make them wonder if their "fruit" makes it impossible to say they know God.⁵

⁴ NIV Woman's Study Bible Copyright © 2017 by Thomas Nelson

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One can fake like they know Christ and not know Him at all. One can even be deceived into thinking they know Christ and have no clue about Him. That's what Hebrews 6:4-6 talks about. But if Christ has bought you with His blood. If He's redeemed you. If He's saved you. If He's transferred His perfect record of obedience over to you and replaced your stained record by His death, burial, resurrection and ascension, then you can **bet** that He'll deliver you through all the ups and downs of your life! If you're struggling right now, recommit your life to Him! Give everything over to Him! Ask Him to have His way in you for the first time or again! He'll do it!

Jesus goes on to remind us that He's the rock of our salvation!

46 *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say? 47 I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn't shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The river crashed against it, and immediately it collapsed. And the destruction of that house was great."* (Luke 6:46-49)

Now if my kids respect me, love me, know I love them, feel "seen" by me, feel "heard" by me, and feel valued, loved and empowered to be all God is leading them to be under my parenting, then we should surely respect, love, and listen to the One that we call "Lord, Lord"! Shouldn't we? If we value the opinions and ideas of those we love, why wouldn't we value the words of Jesus?

Any disciple who respects Jesus should do what he says. How can one call him "Lord" and not do what he says? That is hypocrisy.⁶ Swami Vivekananda was quoted to say "It is better to be an outspoken atheist than a hypocrite."

⁶ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.



I've talked about them before. Milli Vanilli became one of the most popular pop music acts in the late 1980s and early 1990s, with millions of records sold. However, their success turned to infamy when it was discovered that the singers Morvan and Pilatus did not sing any of the vocals on their music releases. Their Grammy award was revoked.⁷

As wonderful as music is, and as much as I would never want anyone not to be involved in it, it would've been better if Milli Vanilli had never done music y'all! One of their lives ended in tragedy! It would've been better if both of them had worked for the post office than for them to pretend like they were musicians and be fakers!

And it would be better for people to never encounter Christ at all than for them to encounter Him fully and live as a hypocrite, unaffected by Him while pretending that they know Him!

So we need to build our house on the solid rock of Jesus Christ!

The roots of Jesus' imagery of the house built on sand and built on rock came from Ezekiel 13:10 - 16.⁸ Like Jesus, who built his house (the church) on a firm foundation, the disciple must build his or her house on the rock which is Jesus himself. Like the

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milli_Vanilli

⁸ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.

author of the Letter of James, Luke is concerned that disciples know what it means to call Jesus ‘Lord’. The essence of Christianity is not merely a belief and a confession (you call me, ‘Lord, Lord’) that can be separated from the way we walk in the world (and not do what I say). When the whole self responds totally to the one Lord, the result is an indissoluble union between one’s **confession** and **walk**.⁹ We gotta **walk** the **talk**!

In Mexico Beach, Florida, the carnage left in the wake of 2018 Hurricane Michael was staggering. But among the devastating scenes aired across cable news channels and published by national media outlets, something stood out among the rubble — a single house, named the “Sand Palace”, appeared to have escaped the storm virtually unscathed. As reported by CNN, this was no coincidence: The Sand Palace was designed by architects to do just that.

“At every point, from pilings to the roof and everything in between, when it came time to make a decision about what level of material or what to use, we didn’t pay attention to code,” said Lebron Lackey, sharing the story of the project with CNN. “We went above and beyond code, and we asked the question: ‘What would survive the big one?’ And we consistently tried to build it for that.”



When the construction of the residence was completed earlier this year, Lackey can’t have imagined that its stormproof features would be put to the test so quickly — and so severely. But when the owner scanned images of the damaged beachfront, he realized that the house had passed this test. Which architectural features or construction processes played a part in this home standing strong while so many surrounding it collapsed? 7 key design decisions contributed:

⁹ Africa Bible Commentary, Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor. Copyright © 2006, 2010, and 2022 by ABC Editorial Board.

- Walls were made of poured reinforced concrete.
- The building sat atop pilings that are 40 feet deep.
- Steel cables travelled from the girders above the pilings through the roof and continued down the back wall.
- A proposed balcony on the east wall was removed at the design stage.
- The roof overhang was kept very small compared with adjacent properties.
- Some proposed windows were replaced with concrete.
- The house was raised on stilts so that storm surge could pass underneath.

These features were all about surpassing the norm. As CNN highlights, state code in the wake of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 required that houses have to be built to withstand 120 mph winds. However, Lackey's Sand Palace was built to withstand about 240 to 250 mph winds.



Of course, these resilient features do not come for free. Lackey's architect, Charles A. Gaskin, said that building a house the way they did "roughly doubles the cost per square foot", compared with ordinary building practices.

Given the raw intensity of Hurricane Michael, the Sand Palace must be viewed as a success story for the architects and engineers behind it. The project will become a case study in resilient design along the Florida coast. When the next storm hits, hopefully there will be many more "Sand Palaces" left standing.¹⁰

When Jesus returns, hopefully there will be lots of "Christ Palaces" left standing! And you are the house He wants to build on Him! Are you building your life on the rock of Jesus? With the reinforced concrete walls of the Word of God? The 40 foot deep pilings

¹⁰ <https://architizer.com/blog/practice/details/one-house-survived-hurricane-michael/>

of prayer? The long steel cables of the Holy Spirit? Are you removing the proposed balconies of bad, earthly minded decisions and exchanging them for heavenly minded ones? Do you got the stilts of faith holding you up so that the storm surges of the devil and his demons can't take you out?

The disciple who responds to Jesus and does what he calls for is able to stand up to the harsh realities of life in a fallen world. The disciple who learns to see and act in the world as Jesus calls the disciple to do is able to face the floods, that is, the disappointments and injuries that life often brings.¹¹

The floods of sickness, the floods of pain, the floods of sadness, the floods of failure, the floods of disappointment, the floods of rejection, the floods of anxiety, the floods of change, and the floods of temptation are sure to come, but **your** life, oh brother and sister in Christ, is **built** on the **Rock!** His Name is Jesus!

How do we make sure to build our house on Christ the Solid Rock? It sure ain't free! Actually it costs **everything!** Let's take the posture of the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume.

6 While Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman approached him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. 8 When the disciples saw it, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. (Matt. 26:6-8)

The woman knew that Jesus was worth **everything**. She was **unashamed**. She was **wildly in love** with Him. She **knew** He was **everything!**

Invite Jesus to be your everything today. Break open the most expensive perfume of your entire life, priorities, and existence and **dump** it all over His feet! Hallelujah! Don't go with the crowd! Don't build on the sand! Don't neglect to tend to the structure of your house! Don't fake your way through! Christ can be **trusted!** He is the **solid Rock** on which we stand! He is our **firm foundation!**

¹¹ NIV Application Commentary Copyright © 1996 by Darrel L. Bock.