



**Individual Responsibility  
Regarding Christ Teaching**  
*Living in the Image of God*  
*Module 04 Session 21*

Banking Blessings Ministry  
San Antonio, Texas  
USA



**Living in the Image of God**

- God creates every person to represent him in interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities
- He blesses those that do

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**Living in the Image of God**

- Program seeks to understand
- Meaning of *Living in the Image of God*
- Resources God has provided to guide us
- Human responsibilities
- Benefits of *Living in the Image of God*

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**What We Will Learn**

- Christ binary categorization of people based on following his teaching
- Those that hear his teaching and practice what he says are his followers
- The others are not his followers even if they invoke his name frequently
- Luke 6:46–49: Analogy of wise builder and foolish builder
- Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23: Parable of the Sower
- Luke 6:43–45: A tree and its fruit

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**Analogy of Wise Builder**

- Christ uses analogy of the wise builder
- To describe those that hear his message and practice what he says
- They live in accordance with his teaching
- That is *Living in the image of God*
- He likens them to the wise builder
- That builds on firm foundation
- Luke 6:47–48

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**Luke 6 (NIV)**

47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.

48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

- Those that hear his message and practice what he says are like the wise builder that builds on a firm foundation

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## Analogy of Foolish Builder

- Christ uses analogy of the foolish builder
- To describe those that hear his message but do not practice what he says
- They are not followers of Christ even if they invoke his name frequently
- He likens them to the foolish builder
- That builds directly on the ground without a foundation
- Luke 6:46 and 49

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## Luke 6 (NIV)

46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

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## Analogy of Foolish Builder cont'd

- Analogy of the foolish builder describes the second category of people
- People that do not practice Christ teaching
- Either they failed to receive the message
- Or they received but do not practice what they received
- Christ describes them in more detail through the Parable of the Sower

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## Parable of the Sower Non-Productive Seeds

- Parable of the Sower describes two categories of human response to Christ teaching
- First category: People that hear Christ teaching but do not practice what he says because of personal habit or environmental influence
- Represented by seeds that fail to germinate
- Germinate but fail to establish root
- Germinate and are well-rooted, but fail to grow to maturity due to environmental disruption
- Matthew 13:3–7

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## Matthew 13 (NIV)

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed.

4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

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## Matthew 13 (NIV)

7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

- Seeds that did not germinate
- Germinated but did not establish root
- Germinated and established root but did not grow to maturity
- Unproductive seeds
- Represent people that hear Christ teaching but do not practice what he says because of personal habit, environmental disruption, or other causes

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## Not-Followers of Christ

- Christ explains Parable of the Sower himself
- Non-productive seeds in Matthew 13:18–22
- Represent people that Christ classifies as “not-followers” even if they invoke his name frequently
  - Non-productive seeds in Parable of the Sower
  - Foolish builder in Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

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## Productive Seeds In Parable of the Sower

- Seeds that fell on good soil and produce several times more than what was sown
- Productive seeds
- Represent people that assimilate Christ teaching and apply it in their living

**Matthew 13:8** Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

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## Enemy Disruption In Parable of the Sower

- Parable describes three ways the enemy could disrupt a person from practicing Christ teaching
- First: enemy disruption of understanding or assimilation
- People exposed to the message but do not understand because of inadequate attention
  - People that understand but soon forget
  - In the parable: seeds that fail to germinate

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## Enemy Disruption In Parable of the Sower cont'd

- Second: enemy disruption of connection to spiritual nourishment
- People that understand and assimilate the message but fail to do any more with it
  - The message does not grow in them and is soon forgotten
  - In Parable of the Sower: seeds that germinate but fail to establish lasting root—those that fell on thin soil over rock

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## Enemy Disruption In Parable of the Sower cont'd

- Third: enemy disruption due to other persistent environmental influence
- People that understand, assimilate, and begin to grow with the message
  - But are not able to withstand one or more kinds of environmental influence
  - In Parable of the Sower: seeds that germinate and are well-rooted but fail to grow to maturity due to environmental constraint

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## Productive Seeds

- People that understand, assimilate, and apply Christ teaching in their living
- Share the message through words and deed
- Bear fruits through their living and sharing
- Their impact on others bears witness of them as followers of Christ
- Like a good tree that bears good fruits
- Luke 6:43–45

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### Luke 5 (NIV)

43 “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

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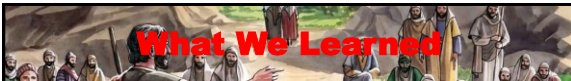


### Luke 5 (NIV)

45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

- Those that hear Christ teaching and apply the message in their living
- Are recognized through their positive impact

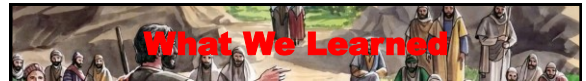
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### What We Learned

- Purpose of the word of God
- Guide people to live and interact with others in accordance with God’s purpose revealed through his word
- *Living in the Image of God* is the purpose of the word of God
- Followers of Christ fulfill the purpose of the word of God by *Living in the Image of God*

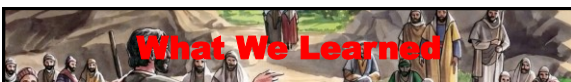
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### What We Learned

- The others are not followers of Christ
- Do not know the word of God
- Know the word but are not *Living in the Image of God* despite knowing his word
- Not followers of Christ even if they invoke his name frequently

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### What We Learned

- Parable of Wise and Foolish Builders
  - Wise builder builds on firm foundation
  - Foolish builder builds directly on the ground without foundation
- Parable of the Sower
  - Productive seeds
  - Unproductive seeds
- A tree and its fruit
  - Good fruit from good tree
  - Bad fruit from bad tree

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# Individual Responsibility Regarding Christ Teaching

## Living in the Image of God M04S21

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Christ teaching leads to understanding that the purpose of the word of God is to guide people through living and interacting with others in accordance with God's purpose revealed through his word. That is, to guide people through *Living in the Image of God*. People that receive Christ teaching and apply the message in their living are *followers of Christ (i.e., Christians)*. The others either fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to apply the message in their living. Those are not followers of Christ, even if they invoke his name frequently. Thus, a *Christian* is a person that has received Christ teaching (the word of God) and applies the message in his or her living.

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This bible study discusses Christ teaching to understand the contrast between *followers of Christ (i.e., Christians)* and non-followers, based on a person receiving Christ teaching and applying the message in their living. His teaching defines a binary categorization of people. One category consists of those that receive his message and practice what he says: "As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like" [Luke 6:47]. The other category consists of people that either fail to receive Christ message or receive but fail to practice what he says [Luke 6:46]: "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" The second category are not followers of Christ, even if they invoke his name frequently.

This study marks the end of our 2023 program year. We thank you for sharing with us this year and look forward to beginning our 2024 program during the second week of February.

This understanding of the contrast between followers of Christ and non-followers is based on Christ teaching on three occasions. First, in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders, he draws a contrast between people that receive his teaching and practice what he says and those that fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to practice what he says. People that receive Christ teaching and apply the message in their living are like the wise builder that builds on firm foundation. In contrast, the others (people that fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to apply the message in their living) are like the foolish builder that builds directly on the ground without foundation.

Second, in the Parable of the Sower, Christ likens people to productive seeds or non-productive seeds: using an analogy to a farmer that sows seeds by broadcast. Productive seeds represent people that receive Christ teaching and apply the message in their living. In contrast, non-productive seeds represent people that fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to apply the message in their living. In the parable, non-productive seeds consist of seeds that fail to germinate, germinate but fail to establish root, or germinate and are well-rooted but fail to grow to maturity; because of environmental disruption.

Third, Christ uses the analogy of a tree and its fruit to characterize his followers and non-followers based on their impact on others. Good fruit comes from good tree, representing positive impact from Christ followers. In contrast, bad fruit comes from bad tree.

Christ teaching on these three occasions leads to understanding that a *Christian* (i.e., follower of Christ) is a person that has received Christ teaching (the word of God) and applies the message in his or her living. The others are non-followers of Christ. They either fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to apply the message in their living. Receiving Christ teaching is an important

step to becoming a Christian, but what makes a person Christian is living according to Christ message, that is, *Living in the Image of God*.

## **Parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders**

In the Parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders, Christ uses the analogy of the wise builder to describe people that receive his message and practice what he says. Such people develop a lasting relationship with God. He likens them to the wise builder that builds on a firm foundation [Luke 6:47–48]: “As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.” People that receive Christ teaching (the word of God) and apply the message in their living are followers of Christ. Their interactions with others follow the principles of *Living in the Image of God*.

In contrast, he uses the analogy of the foolish builder to describe people that do not practice his teaching. They either fail to receive his message, or they receive but do not practice what he says [Luke 6:46]: “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” He likens them to the foolish builder that builds directly on the ground without a foundation [Luke 6:49]: “But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.

The analogy of the wise builder represents *followers of Christ*, whereas the foolish builder represents non-followers. Christ provides a more-detailed description of both categories in the Parable of the Sower.

## **Parable of the Sower**

Similar to the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders, the Parable of the Sower describes two categories of human response to Christ teaching. One category describes people that fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to apply the message in their living. They are represented in the parable as non-productive seeds. The other category describes people that receive his teaching and apply the message in their living. They are represented in the parable as productive seeds.

## **Non-Productive Seeds in the Parable of the Sower**

One category of human response described in the parable consists of people that hear Christ teaching but do not practice what he says, because of personal habit or environmental influence. This category is represented by seeds that fail to germinate, germinate but fail to establish root, or germinate and are well-rooted but fail to grow to maturity; because of environmental disruption.

The parable uses the analogy of a farmer that sows seeds by broadcast [Matthew 13:4–7]: “As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.”

The seeds in this category are non-productive. They represent people that hear Christ teaching but do not practice what he says, because of disruption due to personal habit or environmental influence.

## **Productive Seeds in Parable of the Sower**

The other category of human response described in the Parable of the Sower is represented by seeds that fell on good soil. Such seeds produce several times what was sown. They are the productive seeds: "Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" [Matthew 13:8]. In the parable, productive seeds represent people that assimilate Christ teaching and apply the message in their living.

Productive seeds in the parable represent people that understand the word of God, assimilate the message, and apply the message in their living. They share the message with others through words and deed, and they bear fruits through their living and sharing. Their impact on others bears witness that they are followers of Christ.

They are like a good tree that bears good fruits [Luke 6:43-44]: "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars." People that hear Christ teaching and apply the message in their living are recognized through their positive impact [Luke 6:45]: "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

## **Enemy Disruption in Parable of the Sower**

Christ uses the Parable of the Sower to describe three ways the enemy could disrupt a person from practicing Christ teaching. The first form of enemy disruption consists of the disruption of understanding or assimilation. This form of disruption occurs to people that are exposed to Christ message but do not understand because of inadequate attention, or people that understand but soon forget. In the parable, this form of enemy disruption is represented by seeds that fail to germinate: "As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up" [Matthew 13:4].

The second form of enemy disruption consists of the disruption of spiritual connection. This form of disruption occurs to people that understand and assimilate Christ teaching but fail to do any more with the message. The message does not grow in them and is soon forgotten. In the parable, this form of enemy disruption is represented by seeds that germinate but fail to establish lasting root; that is, the seeds that fell on thin soil over rock [Matthew 13:5-6]: "Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root."

The third form of enemy disruption consists of disruption due to other persistent environmental influence. This form of disruption occurs to people that understand, assimilate, and begin to grow with the message; but are not able to withstand one or more kinds of environmental influence. In the parable, this form of enemy disruption is represented by seeds that germinate and are well-rooted, but fail to grow to maturity due to environmental constraint; that is, the seeds that fell among thorns: "Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants" [Matthew 13:7].

## Summary of What We Learned

Christ teaching leads to understanding that the purpose of the word of God is to guide people through living and interacting with others in accordance with God's purpose revealed through his word. That is, to guide people through *Living in the Image of God*.

People that receive Christ teaching and apply the message in their living are *followers of Christ* (i.e., *Christians*). The others either fail to receive his teaching or receive but fail to apply the message in their living. Those are not followers of Christ, even if they invoke his name frequently.

Thus, a *Christian* is a person that has received Christ teaching (the word of God) and applies the message in his or her living.

**Key Words:** Christian, Enemy Disruption, Follower of Christ, Foolish Builder, Parable of the Sower, Productive Seed, Wise Builder