

# “The Relationship between Teacher and Disciple

St. Luke 6:40

July 2, 2023

SERMON 2111

by Michael David Henson

Dearly beloved members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

In Matthew 28, Jesus tells His disciples, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.” My dear Christian friends, you have been baptized into the Christian faith. You have been taught the teachings of the Christian faith. You have become like your Teacher, Jesus Christ. **St. Luke 6:40 says, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”**

Don’t misunderstand me, you are not like Jesus in every way—far from it.

The **Ten Commandments** show me my sin and teaches me that I have not obeyed the perfect will of God. However, Jesus Christ has perfectly kept the commandments. He has kept them in thought, word and deed.

The **Apostles’ Creed** teaches me that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity who took unto Himself a human nature. He is holy. He became my Savior that He might redeem us from sin, death and the devil. I am, however, one of God’s creatures, made by him. Through faith in God’s promise, I have been saved. His Holy Spirit not only granted me faith, but continues to sanctify me and make me holy.

The **Lord’s Prayer** teaches me to pray for all of the things which I need from God. Unlike me, my Jesus lacks nothing. Having ascended on high, He intercedes on my behalf so that all of my requests are prayed in Jesus’ name and are answered based on His mercy to me.

In the means of grace, our God abundantly provides us with the forgiveness of sins. I was brought to holy Baptism and my sins were washed away. Following the confession of sins, Jesus directs the pastor to absolve me of my sins. Through the reception of Lord’s Supper, my Jesus gives me His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins.

**The six chief parts of the catechism are certainly used in the conversion of the person into a Christian, but once that person is converted those same teachings are used to continue to change the Christian so that they become more and more like Jesus. The disciple is to become as Jesus His Teacher already is.**

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. In our baptism we were adopted **to become sons of God**, like Jesus already is—God’s Son.

At His baptism the Father says that Jesus is His **beloved** Son. We know that Jesus in love left His Father’s throne so that He might show us His great love for us. He gave Himself as our substitute and sacrifice. He laid down His life for us. Through faith in Jesus **we are loved** by the Father. Jesus says in John 16:27, “for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.”

As Christians, we pick up the Ten Commandments each morning so that we might learn to fear and love God. We know that we have a sinful nature, but we as God’s child, we desire to please Him. 1 John 4:10-11 says, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought

to love one another.” We confess our lack of love by nature, but through faith in Christ’s forgiveness, we have received **a love for God**, are now learning **to be more loving ourselves**. 1 John 4:19 says, “We love Him because He first loved us.”

Philippians 2:8 says that Jesus “humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of **the cross**.” Through that cross we receive forgiveness and have been reconciled to the Father. Like Jesus we now, too, desire **to pick up our cross daily and follow Him**. In Luke 9:23, Jesus asked us to be like Him. He said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” As redeemed Christians we are not to live for ourselves but in service to others. Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Our Jesus is leading us in the Christian way. Through daily repentance and forgiveness, we are being led by our Teacher to learn from our heavenly Father and to show love and kindness to our neighbor.

**In Luke 6:40, Jesus says, “A disciple is not above his teacher....”** Dr. Martin Luther describes those who by their attitude toward the catechism—the basic teachings of the faith—show that they consider themselves to be above their teacher. They think that having learned it all, they are now ready to leave Jesus behind. They think that they are above their teacher.

Dr. Luther, remarked in the preface to the Large Catechism, “A shameful and insidious plague of security and boredom has overtaken us. Many regard the Catechism as a simple, silly teaching which they can absorb and master at one reading. After reading it once they toss the book into a corner as if they are ashamed to read it again....

As for myself, let me say that I, too, am a doctor and a preacher — yes, and as learned and experienced as any of those who act so high and mighty. Yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism. **Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word for word the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc.** <sup>8</sup> I must still read and study the Catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly. These dainty, fastidious fellows would like quickly, with one reading, to become doctors above all doctors, to know all there is to be known. Well, this, too, is a sure sign that they despise both their office and the people’s souls, yes, even God and his Word. They need not fear a fall, for they have already fallen all too horribly. What they need is to become children and begin learning their ABC’s, which they think they have outgrown long ago.”

Those who think that they have progressed above and beyond their teach are like blind God’s. Let us never leave behind our discipleship. Through God’s teaching, we will be disciples like our Teacher. Ephesians 4:14-15 says, “...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.... **St. Luke 6:40 says, “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”**

In Christ,  
The Rev. Michael D. Henson  
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Luke 6:36-42 (NKJV)

36“Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

37“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” 39And He spoke a parable to them: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? 40“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. 41“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? 42“Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.