



# KINGDOM LIVING

A DISCIPLESHIP PATTERN FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

# Transformation not Imitation

The foundation and source of our Character formation is in relationship with Christ.

Luke 6:12-49

Imitation looks like one thing, but acts like another.

Whereas.

Transformation is one thing, and BECOMES another.

One becomes; one appears.

# Imitation vs Transformation

## Imitation:

- **Definition:** Mimicking the behaviour, teachings, and ethical patterns of Jesus or mature believers
- **Focus:** External actions, disciplines, and choices. The mind.
- **Mechanism:** Looking at an example, practicing obedience, and learning good habits. Self-willed.
- **Potential Pitfall:** Can lead to legalism, hypocrisy, or burnout if not backed by internal change.
- **Primary Role:** Serves as a training tool and a way to practice living out your faith before the world.

# Imitation vs Transformation

## Transformation

- **Definition:** A fundamental shift in identity and desires through the renewal of the mind
- **Focus:** Internal character, heart posture, and spiritual DNA.
- **Mechanism: The work of the Holy Spirit** living inside the believer to produce "fruit" rather than just copying behaviour.
- **Potential Pitfall:** Requires continuous surrender and humility; it cannot be faked or achieved by human willpower alone.
- **Primary Role:** The ultimate goal of the Christian life—becoming a new creation, transformed into the *image of Christ* (Romans 8:28-29)

# The Law, and imitation are caretakers until we mature and are transformed

In biblical theology, **Imitation** is the outward modelling of Christ's actions and teachings, often seen as an early step of discipleship. **Transformation** is the inward supernatural change of a person's nature by the Holy Spirit. While imitation copies the Master, transformation makes the believer like the Master from the inside out.

# Luke 6:20-23

## The Beatitudes

<sup>20</sup> Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed *are you* poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> Blessed *are you* who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed *are you* who weep now, For you shall laugh. <sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile *you*, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

# Luke 6:24-26

## Jesus Pronounces Woes

<sup>24</sup> "But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are full. For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets."

# Luke 6:27-31

## Love Your Enemies

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. <sup>29</sup> To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. <sup>31</sup> And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

# Luke 6:32-36

<sup>32</sup> "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping

for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. <sup>36</sup> Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

# Luke 6:37-38

## Do Not Judge

<sup>37</sup> "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> 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."

# Luke 6:39-42

<sup>39</sup> And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? <sup>40</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. <sup>41</sup> And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> 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.



*KINGDOM*  
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# Luke 6:43-45

## A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

<sup>43</sup> “For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

<sup>44</sup> For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *mendo* not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

# Luke 6:46-49

## Build on the Rock

<sup>46</sup> “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? <sup>47</sup> Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup> But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

# Transformation comes through participation

## *Romans 5:1-5 Peace with God Through Faith*

*5 Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but **we rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that suffering **produces endurance**, <sup>4</sup> and endurance **produces character**, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and **hope does not put us to shame**, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

# In conclusion

God doesn't want adherents to the law, or imitators, but sons and daughters that walk with him and are changed from the inside out.