

## Oaklands Chapel – Assignment – Easter Sunday, April 12 2009

### Lesson 20 “The Character of New Life”

Luke 6 37-49

1. Read verses 37-38. Notice the 2 negative injunctions (judging and condemning) followed by the 2 positive injunctions (forgiving and giving). Talk about what our community (fellowship) would look like if we could practice these more fully. Suggest ways in which we might encourage / challenge / exhort one another in these areas.
2. Verses 39-40. How do you understand the main teaching point of this parable? What character quality or attitude of life is being upheld here? Talk about the importance of ‘teacher-disciple’ relationships. Are you mentoring someone or being mentored by someone? How can we provoke more of these kinds of relationships at Oaklands Chapel?
3. Verses 41-42. William Barclay gives this quote: “there is so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst of us that it ill becomes any of us to find fault with the rest of us.” Talk about what Jesus is really trying to say about how we should (1) view ourselves and (2) view others.
4. Verses 43-45. Jesus is highlighting the critical importance of having ‘healthy hearts’. Talk about specific ways in which we might practice good ‘heart care’ in our lives – what spiritual disciplines are most important in this regard? How do these disciplines result in ‘good fruit’? How is this different from a simply outward form of religious practice? What do you think about Jesus’ connection between ‘words’ and ‘heart’?
5. Verses 46-49. This well known story highlights Jesus’ view of the relationship between ‘hearing’ and ‘doing’. Why do you think ‘hearing’ and ‘not doing’ is linked so closely to this picture of destruction? Where do you see danger areas for us in our ‘organized’ church life? How will you apply this in your own life experience?