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Title: Lessons from Lasso: Biscuits with the Boss

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Text: [Luke 16:17-26](#)

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[Watch the service.](#)



Today, we are concluding our series, Lessons from Lasso, looking at what we learn about life from the television show Ted Lasso and some early scenes from Jesus' ministry. The first week we learned to Be a Goldfish, that our lives are not oriented in the past, rather they are oriented in God's future. Last week, we learned to believe, that the signs of

the kingdom of God are around us if we are only willing to have the vision and spirit to see and experience these signs. We've learned what it means as followers of Jesus to do the right-est thing and we learned that a life of faith calls us to be curious, rather than judgmental. Last week, we learned through Jesus calling the disciples and Ted bringing the Diamond Dogs together that we cannot do life alone

To finish this series, and yes, we are already thinking about More Lessons from Lasso, we go back to the beginning of the series, as Coach Ted Lasso and Owner Rebecca Welton begin their unique working relationship. As the series goes along, we see their relationship and their characters evolve. Rebecca Welton has one of the most transformative journeys across the first two seasons, in part because of her friendship with Ted. Ted Lasso just seems to have that effect on other people. On day two of their working relationship, Ted begins the day with a gift for Rebecca. Let's watch the clip.

The biscuits are good, and the biscuits are important. But the biscuits are merely a bridge. They are designed to lead to something more, something greater. As Ted Lasso states, "We can't be good partners unless we get to know one another."

Jesus was known for eating meals with a lot of different people, known for eating with people that no one else would eat meals with. Of course, the meal we share each week at the communion table, the meal of bread and cup, comes from the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. At all these meals, the food is important. But that the food is not the main point. The main point is what happens around the food and over the found.

Jesus has been preaching and teaching in what Luke calls “the sermon on the plain.” Some of it is similar teaching to what Matthew calls the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew places this on a mountain, whereas Luke places this section of preaching and teaching on a plain. A flat, level plain. Place in the Bible often matters and should not be overlooked.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus wants to level the playing field. We are all on the same level.

Jesus levels the playing field because he has a word for you, a word for each of us. And no matter where this might have taken place, a mountain or a plain, the word is this: we must change our ways.

We pick up the scripture in the middle of Jesus' teaching and the first part of the teaching has been so countercultural and difficult to imagine, that Jesus essentially says, *“for those who are still listening.”*

“But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you. “If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.” Luke 6:27-38 CEB

Did you hear that? Some outrageous stuff. If people stopped listening before this, surely, they stopped after Jesus said these things

- Love your enemies.
- Do good to those who hate you.
- Bless those who curse you.
- Pray for those who mistreat you.

- Turn the other cheek.
- Don't judge.
- Forgive others.

That is quite a list. It's a list that we must take seriously. If we seek to be in relationship with God, through Jesus, this is how we must live. And Jesus will use every ounce of power that flows through him to call us to live in this way. To level the playing field, to help us to build bridges with our lives, so that our lives and the world will be as God intends. The life we have will be in direct proportion to how much of our lives we give away in the name of Jesus.

The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.

The more we live like Jesus, like God calls us to live, the richer our lives will be.

Rebecca Welton is in a bad place. When we first meet her, we get the sense that she is self-absorbed. She is grieving a life that she has lost, a life that didn't have a whole lot of meaning, but perhaps the life she thought she needed. She has gone through a very painful divorce, publicly humiliated and she is angry. In the divorce, she receives a soccer club, the one thing her ex-husband truly loved. And she is intent on destroying this club as a way of getting revenge on her ex-husband. That is where she is putting most, if not all, of her energy. It's when Ted Lasso arrives at the club and in her life that everything begins to change.

It's funny isn't it, how in certain times and seasons of our lives, the right person, the right group of people, even the right experience, shows up. Coincidence, maybe, but perhaps not. If Jesus will use every ounce of his power, to call us in a new way, then why shouldn't that call come through others, why can't that power come through us to another.

The more I watched Ted Lasso, the more I became convicted that Ted, although not Christian, not even implicitly Christian, Ted had a lot to teach us about living an authentic, faith-filled life.

While the biscuits are only bread, they might as well be bread and cup. They become the bridge by which Rebecca's life is transformed. It doesn't happen at once and Rebecca takes a while to figure out it's happening, but she does get it. All because Ted Lasso does each of these things that Jesus lists in this sermon on the plain.

- Do good to those who hate you.
- Bless those who curse you.

- Pray for those who mistreat you.
- Turn the other cheek.
- Don't judge.
- Don't condemn.
- Forgive others.

One of the most powerful scenes is when Rebecca confesses to Ted that she brought him over to sabotage the club and she has tried to sabotage him every chance she gets.

Ted Lasso takes it in and simply says, "I Forgive you"

Sometimes when we hear teachings such as today's, we think "well this is nice, but it's not possible. Jesus doesn't know my reality" Except that he does. And he is serious. And he will go to great lengths, every length possible, to create a world and a faith where people live in this way. Several weeks ago, I attended a conference with other lead pastors of large Disciples of Christ churches. Our speaker was Adam Hamilton, his name may be familiar to you, he is the founding and current pastor of the largest mainline church in America, with around 23,000 members. From the very beginning of the church to today, they have five expectations for people who join their church

1. Attend worship 90% of the weeks of the year, either in-person or online
2. Be involved in one Bible Study or small group per year and read the Bible daily
3. Be involved in one individual church service or mission project per year and do five acts of kindness per day
4. Fill out a pledge card each year, even if the amount you can give is \$0.
5. Invite five people to church per year.

One of my colleagues raised her hand and asked the question that most of us were thinking? "How do people respond to this? We are trying so hard to grow the church, that we typically ask very little of people, and if we asked people to do these things, what if no one wanted to do them?"

Adam Hamilton responded in this way. "You'd be surprised. The people I know who take this seriously, who apply these expectations to their lives, they are some of the most fulfilled people I know."

I know he's right. I know he is right because in doing those things, you come to know God and to know Jesus better. And you come to know the things Jesus asks of us better. Jesus is clear about the expectations of the life of faith. And they are not easy. They are hard.

But if we take Jesus seriously,

if we take what Jesus asks of us seriously,
If we take our faith seriously,
We will be some of the most fulfilled people around.
And the world around us will be that much closer to how God intends it to
be.
Let Us Pray.