

## Matthew 7:21-29—True Discipleship

- Danger with SOM is it's easy to TALK it, hard to WALK it
  - “Lord, Lord” = easy.....living the ethic of the SOM = hard
  - Jesus' ultimate concern in these verses is our RESPONSE to the Sermon on the Mount
    - Move from false prophets to false professors. From unsound teachers to unsound hearers
- Neither doctrinal affirmation nor the accomplishment of good works determine salvation—A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST IS ALL THERE IS!
- 2 Unacceptable Alternatives:
  - Mere Profession (21-23)—people offer lip service as a substitute for obedience
  - Mere Knowledge (24-27)—people offer assent and exposure(hearing) as the substitute
  - For both, the warning, the caution and the true tests are about evaluating ourselves, not by what is OUTWARD and VISIBLE, but what is down deep in our hearts, at our foundation, and invisible!
- IN THIS ENDING JESUS IS CAUTIONING AND WARNING WITH THE STRONGEST OF LANGUAGE AGAINST SELF-DECEPTION THAT LEADS TO DEATH.
- Beware of Being All Talk and No Heart (7:21-23)
  - Doctrine—You can know theology and not know Jesus—“Lord”
    - We can sit in pews for years and serve on leadership teams and go to Bible studies and confess that Jesus is God and that he died on the cross and yet NEVER repent of our sins and trust him personally for salvation
  - Devotion—“Lord, Lord”—double repetition for sincerity, zeal, etc.
  - Demonstration—You can do great things and serve people sacrificially and not know Jesus—“prophesy, cast out demons, do mighty works...”
    - You can be a deacon, a pastor, a TV evangelist, a NYTimes bestseller, a team leader, a community group leader and be lost!
      - JUDAS—even he was sent out by Jesus and cast out demons and yet he was lost!
    - Luke 10:20—do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you, rejoice that your names are written in heaven!
  - Our salvation is NOT predicated on what we SAY about Christ or DO for Christ but on what He SAYS about us and what he has DONE for us!
    - No magic prayers; no secret formula; it's heart change by the grace of God alone!
    - Our mere professions accomplish NOTHING for us—it is NO GAIN to profess and claim Christ in word only with no truth/reality!
  - A profession is necessary (Romans 10:9-10) and a profession is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3)—“no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.”
    - A true and sincere profession is made with both our LIPS and our LIVES!
- Beware of Being All Ears No Action (7:24-27)
  - Jesus moves us from right belief and behavior to right building! We are building our lives, we are building ministries, we are building organizations...God's people are Kingdom builders! We must be CAREFUL how we build.
  - Here the contrast is between HEARING and DOING—it's not that we SAY we have the right blueprint, or that we constantly occupy the same ROOM as the blueprint, but that we actually BUILD according to the blueprint!
  - Why so dangerous?
    - The difference between the two people here is IN THE FOUNDATION—once they got started building, nobody would have noticed any difference—all the difference was DEEP, below the surface—but that is where health really counts!
      - Either storms of trial in this life or the “storm” of Christ's judgement will reveal what is at the foundation!

- **Be Diligent with Foundations**
  - We build lives like designers build cities and buildings. What will determine what remains and what doesn't is the foundation!
  - What is your foundation?
    - Christ is the Rock/Foundation
      - Leaving the SOM with the goal of TRYING HARDER to live this way is building our lives on the sand of moralism and behavior modification (moralistic therapeutic deism)
      - Isaiah 26:18/Acts 4:11/Eph 2:20—Christ = the cornerstone
      - Christ and His Teaching are our rock—we build on these things!
      - The foundation of Christ LASTS and STANDS, regardless of what comes against us.
        - Rains will come, tides will rise, winds will blow—in Christ, we will STAND! There is ROCK higher than us, stronger than us, stronger than sin, satan and grave!
    - **2 Dangers:**
      - Forget about foundation—"I don't need a foundation; I'll just drift"
      - Forget how to build—"I got my foundation right, it doesn't matter how I build.
      - Men in the room. Husbands in the room. Dads in the room—THIS IS YOUR JOB! GET SERIOUS ABOUT THE FOUNDATION! GET SERIOUS, DIG DEEP, SWEAT HARD, LAY THE FOUNDATION!
        - Genesis 2:8—the story of the Fall; Eve is seduced by the false prophet, the Devil, turns from the foundation of God's word and tanks things—God seeks out Adam!
- **Be Careful What You Build**
  - 1 Cor. 3:12-15—If any man builds on this foundation (Jesus) using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss.
    - May we not be of the number who trust Christ as Savior and then proceed building on top of that rock solid foundation a house for our own glory, built by our own efforts, that is ultimately worth nothing!
  - Stott—we need to consider that the Bible is a dangerous book to read, and that the church is a dangerous society to join...Our membership therefore lays upon us the serious responsibility of ensuring that what we know and what we say is translated into what we do."
- **Be Astonished by the Savior (28-29)**
  - Not only is this a message like no other, this is a Messiah like no other
  - **He speaks with absolute authority**
    - "astonished" = dumbfounded!
    - With complete confidence he declared who would inherit the kingdom, who would receive righteousness, who would receive mercy, who would inherit the earth, who would see God and who would be fit to be the children of God! How could he possibly do that!?
    - The scribes spoke "by authority" (needed sources); Jesus spoke WITH authority
  - **He demands absolute surrender**
  - **He deserves absolute worship—GIVE IT TO HIM TODAY!!**
    - It is his beauty which gives this sermon its beauty
    - It is his authority that gives the sermon its power and conviction
    - It is his radiance that gives this sermon its illumination!
    - We must go beyond even the moral, ethical, spiritual teachings here. They are wonderful, challenging and enlightening but they are NOT THE END...they are a means to the end of the Teacher, the Person, the Preacher Himself, Jesus!