

The School of Christ

Lesson 12

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 7:15-24

The School of Christ

- › The commands of Jesus – many from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- › Luke's gospel – the 'Sermon on the Plain' (Luke 6)

BOTH SERMONS...

- › End with the parable of the two builders building on rock or sand – Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49
- › End with a story – the last word in each is 'great' (a great fall)

BOTH SERMONS...

- › The focus is to heed the call to discipleship
- › Not only hear the words of Jesus but do them – take Jesus' words seriously

I. Two Types of Followers

Matthew 7:15-23

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit,

but the bad tree bears bad fruit.
 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit,
 nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
 Every tree that does not bear good
 fruit is cut down and thrown into
 the fire. Thus you will know them by
 their fruits.

Matthew 7:15-20

1. LIVING ON THE SURFACE

- › False prophets (v15) - Look genuine (sheep's clothing) - the problem is not in their teaching but behaviour
- › The nature of their fruit



Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me,

"Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers."

Matthew 7:21-23

2. SURFACE OR DEPTH?

- > Surface people sound genuine, 'Lord, Lord...' (v22) + perform deeds of power (v22) - their ideas/beliefs are correct
- > But they do not know Jesus - their lives are not consistent with his values

CALLED TO DEPTH

- > We are called to a deeper, more authentic, intimate relationship with Christ
- > One of inner transformation - an interior awakening
- > Not pseudo-disciples

HEART AND MIND

- > The command is seen in doing the will of the Father (v21)
- > Be in relationship with our heavenly Abba - with open heart not just mind

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!

Matthew 7:24-27

II. Two Types of Builders

Matthew 7:24-27

IN MATTHEW

- › The focus is on where one builds
- › Building on rock or sand
- › Does the building stand when the storms comes?

IN LUKE

- › The focus is on the building construction
- › Building with good foundations or not
- › How does the building stand in the storm?

HEAR AND DO JESUS' WORDS

- › Not just listening and appreciating and understanding
- › But putting them into practice

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH PERSON

- › Wise - Prudent, sensible, thoughtful - puts Jesus' words into practice
- › Foolish - Mōro (moron) - only hears, does not listen

THE DIFFERENCE

- › The difference between the wise and foolish is only shown in how they handle the storms

III. Going Forward

A CHRISTOLOGICAL FOCUS

- › Christ is not merely a wise teacher but is the King of the new kingdom of God
- › Who is Christ for us? What does his life and death mean?

NOT A NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY

- › Jesus is asking for true discipleship not lip service

PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE

- › Not just verbal profession but one's life lived in relationship to Jesus

NO SUBSTITUTE

- › Charismatic activity is no substitute for obedience
- › The key work is 'poieo' - doing
- › Opening one's life to Jesus

FOLLOWING JESUS

- › Not a once-for-all decision
- › It speaks to perseverance, and persistence amidst the storms of life

We shall not be saved by anything less than commitment and the commitment will not be effective unless it finds expression in a committed fellowship. If we have any knowledge of human nature, we begin by rejecting the arrogance of self-sufficiency.

Committed men/women need the fellowship not because they are strong, but because they are - and know they are - fundamentally sinful and weak.

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