**"True & False Followers"**

**Matthew 7:21-29**

 ***Overview***  A secret identity can indicate the presence of sound moral character or evil. Both

superheroes and common criminals wear masks, the one to preserve the ability

to do good and the other to maintain an anonymity that allows for more crime.

Jesus spoke about hidden identities from time to time. However, in His thinking

the instrument of concealment that people use is not a piece of cloth or mask but

rather the words they use, and perhaps even their actions.

In this final section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes the

importance of truly following the teaching He has given (and the terrible

consequences of only appearing to be one of His followers).

***Getting Started*** *Who is the Real You?*



1. If you could choose any costume to wear for a costume party, which one

would you choose (and why)?

2. What kind of house do you like the most (eg. colonial, Cape Cod, modern bungalow, cottage, castle, etc.)? What makes it the one you prefer?

3. Which teacher was one of your favorites (from elementary, secondary, or post-secondary days; from the Internet, etc.)? What made (or makes) that teacher special to you?

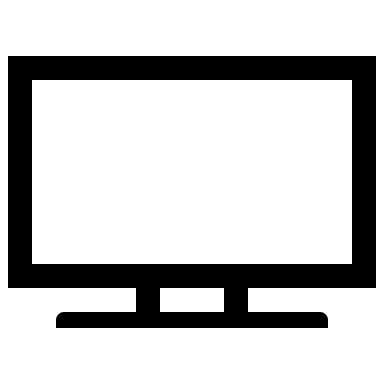
***The Text***

21“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

24“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

28When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 7:21-29 (NIV)

***The Video (optional)*** *“True & False Followers” – Matthew 7:21-29* – by Kyle Corbin, June 20/21 (view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)).

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***Understanding***



1. What is the difference between those who enter heaven and those who don’t (according to verse 21)? How is this warning connected to the previous teaching of verses 15-20?

2. What activities does Jesus list as some of the things practiced by those who don’t know Him (vs. 22)? How is it possible that such things can be done without knowing Jesus and His power? Check our Matt. 24:24, 2 Thess. 2:9-10.

3. How does Jesus describe those who perform great acts but who are not part of the kingdom of heaven (vs. 23)? What does it mean when Jesus tells them... “I never knew you. Away from me”? See John 10:14, 2 Tim. 2:19. How important is it to have a relationship with Jesus (and how do you know if you have one)?

4. In verses 24-27 Jesus contrasts a wise man with a foolish one. How are the actions of these two men different (i.e. what choices do they make and how do they live differently)?

5. In His analogy, Jesus uses the analogy of a house to compare the result of the wise man’s choices with the result of choices made by the foolish fellow (vs. 24-27). In this analogy, what do you imagine the rain, floods and wind represent? What do the rock (see Ps. 31:2-3, Matt. 16:16-18) and sand refer to? What does it mean for the house to “fall” (consider what it would have meant for a person to lose their house in Biblical times)? How is this teaching a fitting conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount?

6. In what way was Jesus’ teaching different from the teaching the people were used to receiving (vs. 28-29)? How do you imagine listening to Jesus teach ((i.e. what would have made it stand out to you)?

***Applying***

 1. People often consider Jesus as just another great teacher (and nothing more). What does Jesus claim about Himself here (in vs. 21-28) that would make such a description inadequate?

2. Is Jesus not preaching a “salvation by works” theology here (vs. 21, 24) (check Eph. 2:8-9)? Is He saying that the words we use are not important (check Rom. 10:9-10)? If not, how are we to understand these words?

3. How do you think most people today would regard someone who could prophesy, cast out demons and perform mighty works (vs. 22)? What does your answer suggest about what the modern church values? What could be more important than these things?

4. How is it possible that the people that Jesus describes in verses 21-23 are practicing evil (vs. 23)? Is it evil, for example, to refer to Jesus as Lord and to cast out demons? See also Luke 6:46.

5. Jesus declares here that only those who do the will of His Father will enter heaven (vs. 21). Is there anyone who follows that will perfectly? If not, is there anyone at all that can look forward to heaven? How much of God’s will must one follow in order to be saved (Titus 3:4-7, 1 John 1:9)?

6. Have you experienced the rain, floods, and winds of life and felt your house continue to stand? What story of God’s faithfulness and provision in your life can you share to bring glory to Him?

7. It what ways can we go about making sure that our life is being built upon the “rock” (vs. 24)? In what ways might we be guilty of building our house on sand (vs. 26)?

8. This brings us to the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Quickly review the content of Jesus’ sermon. What portion has been the most impactful or means the most to you right now? Why?

9. In what way will you endeavor to more completely do the will of God (and put His truth into practice) in the coming week?

***Memory Verse(s)***



Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

***Extra Resources***



* *“True & False Followers” – Matthew 7:21-29* – by Kyle Corbin, June 20/21 (sermon, view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)). Pastor Kyle reflects on Jesus’ instruction (and warning) about who is truly His follower (and who is not).
* *“I Never Knew You” -* by Greg Morse (article at [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org),

Nov. 14, 2019). This article highlights the ways in which we can look like (or think) we are saved while we are, in fact, still lost.

* *“Three Right Ways to Read Your Bible” –* by J. D. Greear (article at [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org)). Greear gives us three things to keep in mind that will enrich our study of the words we are to put into practice.