***The Sermon on the Mount***

**The Unwise One; Matthew 7:26-27**

I. The Words of Jesus Come Into a Life

 A. The Person Hears His Words

 B. The Person Does NOT Act on His Words

II. Trouble Comes: Rains Fall, Floods Come, Winds Blow

 A. A Warning of a Failure to Stand in the Midst of Temporary Trials

 B. A Warning of a Failure to Stand in the Midst of Eternal Judgment

III. How can I know if I am hearing and acting on the Words of Jesus?
OR How can I know if I am on the narrow road?
OR How can I know if I will be allowed into the eternal kingdom?

A. Honest and Willing Assessment, II Corinthians 13:5

B. Right Attitude – humility toward God and others, Matthew 5:3-5

C. Right Hunger – for personal purity and righteousness, Matthew 5:6, 8, 21-48

D. Right Relationships – merciful, peacemakers, Matthew 5:7, 9, 7:1-12

E. Right Purpose – to know Christ and to make Him known, Matthew 5:10-15, 28:19-20

F. Right Motives – the glory of God the Father, Matthew 5:16, 6:1-4

G. Right Prayer Life – talking with a loving heavenly Father, Matthew 6:5-18

H. Right Priorities – God’s Kingdom as treasure, Matthew 6:19-34

I. Right Truth – Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior of the World, Matthew 7:13-33

**I. Scripture Reading**

* **Read Matthew 7:13-27 (Slides)**
* After this series of rather scary and intimidating statements we come to verse 24
* Verse 24 “Therefore”
* We want to know what to do with this warning
* We don’t want to fall on the wrong side of this warning
* We don’t want to fall on the wrong side of ministry and be a false prophet
* We don’t want to fall on the wrong side of faith and love of Christ and be forever lost
* We want to hear Jesus say, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”
* We don’t want to hear Jesus say, “Depart from me.”
* Vrs 24 provides the “therefore” that all true readers of this passage long to hear
* If you are asking the question, what must happen in order to be on the right side of that judgment that is a good sign that we are on the right side of that judgment
* Today, I want to answer this nagging question, “How do I know?” “How do I know if I am in verse 24 or verse 26?”
* Or “How can I know if I am hearing and ACTING on the Words of Jesus?”
* Or “How can I know if I am on the narrow road?”
* Or “How can I know if I will be allowed into the eternal kingdom?”

**II. Exposition of Matthew 7:26-27 (Title Slide – Slide 1)**

* I want us to take a brief look at these verses again, verse 23 which leads Jesus into the concluding parable of the two builders on two different foundations
* We looked last week at the wise builder, the one hearing the words of Jesus and living according to the words of Jesus
* This week we will look at the unwise or foolish builder, the one who hears the words of Jesus and does not follow them
* This parable is connected directly to the very scary warning of verse 23
* **Read Matthew 7:23-24 (Slide 2)**
* Therefore…therefore since you don’t want this to happen, here is the measure

**III. Two builders and a warning from the Master Engineer**

* Having provided a promise to the first builder, Jesus moves to the second builder
* **Read Matthew 7:26-27 (Slide 3)**
* Everyone who hears what Jesus says and does not submit their life to His teachings faces rejection by God
* I believe there are two implications to this, one temporal and one eternal
* However, with that said, the context seems more focused on eternal issues
* “Enter by the narrow gate…”
* “Not everyone that says ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven
* “Depart from Me you who practice lawlessness…”
* This type of language should cause us to reflect on our salvation
* How can I know if I am hearing and acting on the Words of Jesus?
* OR How can I know if I am on the narrow road?
* OR How can I know if I will be allowed into the eternal kingdom?
* Reflecting this way seems to be the intent of Jesus, having taught all that He did
* Reflect on what I have said and conform your life to My life and My teachings
* Not a call to religion but a call to discipleship, a call to follow Christ and live as Jesus lived
* **Consider what Paul says in II Corinthians 13:5 (Slide 4)**
* **Consider what John says in I John 2:3-6 (Slides 5-6)**
* **Consider what John says in I John 3:16-18 (Slide 7)**
* Honest and Willing Assessment, II Corinthians 13:5, I John
* This is the first mark of a legitimate believer – a willingness to ask the question

**IV. Now consider what Jesus has said throughout the Sermon on the Mount**

* Right Attitude – humility toward God and others, Matthew 5:3-5
* **Read Matthew 5:3-5 (Slide 8)**
* Right Hunger – for personal purity and righteousness, Matthew 5:6, 8, 21-48
* **Read Matthew 5:6 (Slide 9)**
* Right Relationships – merciful, peacemakers, Matthew 5:7, 9, 7:1-12
* **Read Matthew 5:7 (Slide 10)**
* Right Purpose – to know Christ and to make Him known, Matthew 5:10-15, 28:19-20
* Great Commission: Teaching them to Observe all that I have commanded you
* **Read Matthew 5:11-12 (Slide 11)**
* Right Motives – the glory of God the Father, Matthew 5:16, 6:1-4
* **Read Matthew 5:16 (Slide 12)**
* Right Prayer Life – talking with a loving heavenly Father, Matthew 6:5-18
* **Read Matthew 6:6 (Slide 13)**
* Right Priorities – God’s Kingdom as treasure, Matthew 6:19-34
* **Read Matthew 6:19-21 (Slide 14)**
* Right Truth – Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior of the World, Matthew 7:13-33
* **Read Matthew 7:15 (Slide 15)**

**V. Conclusion (Header slide – Slide 16)**

* Grace is receiving what is not rightfully ours by embracing Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives
* This grace, given by God to us on the basis of faith in His Son, transforms
* This is a transforming grace that empowers us to live lives that our beyond our natural means
* Jesus calls us to a life of radical, self-sacrificing obedience
* The examples of this language and life from Christ are throughout the Gospels and spills over into the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament
* God is calling us to follow His Son in obedience
* If we have truly received Christ as our Lord and Savior by faith, we want this
* We will want to follow Him in these terms
* We will love Jesus with an everlasting love that changes our priorities, our battle with sin, our love for our neighbors, our love for truth, our love for the glory of God, our love for prayer and giving with a focus for the kingdom of God
* When we know God’s Son in this way, He changes us
* This transformation of heart and life is the good fruit Jesus describes in Matthew 7:17, “So every good tree bears good fruit and every bad tree bears bad fruit.” “You will know these false teachers by their fruit.”
* Which is why there are so many false teachers within the church with such influence
* We have been measuring them by religious content and not their obedience and conforming to the word of Christ
* I was telling the students in Nagaland that I came to hang out with my heroes because they take the Gospel to hard places
* When the saints are presented spotless before the Lamb I will be in the back of the line, but I will say of some of these, “I knew that man, woman back in India.”