

The Gospel of Jesus, Lesson 20 - The Invitation Matthew 7:13-29

This lesson will draw us to the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount... the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest preacher who ever lived.

1. v. 28-29

- a. Jesus' sermon commanded attention, had a powerful effect, and is 'the greatest' in part because He included the most important ingredients a sermon can have: Explanation, Illustration, and Application.
 - i. In this study, we see the end of this sermon and can add the 4th great element of a sermon: Invitation.
 - ii. This is why we give an invitation, altar call, response time at the end...it's continuing the historic practice of Jesus that has been carried out by serious churches throughout the ages.
 - iii. Sermons SHOULD bring people to a point of decision.
 - iv. As we continue in the Christian life, every day we have decisions as we reach those 'forks in the road'. Are we making choices that will please God?
- b. Many people today think they have it all figured out for themselves, and don't accept anyone as having any spiritual authority over them.
 - i. They go through life saying, "I'll decide what I do, when I please."
 - ii. Sadly, most never get around to making a decision to serve God in a Romans 12 way.
 - iii. To wait and make no decision is to decide "no." John 3:18 - He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

2. v. 21-23

- a. The only thing worse than being lost and going to hell, is being lost and going to hell while thinking you were going to heaven.
- b. Jesus goes on to say that even after you have been saved, having chosen the right road, then you still should build, and build on the right foundation, or you won't amount to much in your Christian life.
 - i. Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy
 - ii. Why did it lean?

3. v. 24-27

- More important than any other concern is this: What foundation are you built on?
 - Both houses looked about the same, so long as the sun was shining. But when the storms come, the foundation is revealed!
 - 1 Cor. 3:11-15
 - This is talking about your Christian life.
 - If you live for "THINGS AND THRILLS" then you are building wood, hay, and stubble, and it will burn, and there will be nothing left.

- Build on the foundation of Christ...the Rock!
 - This is talking about
 - Service;
 - Sacrifice;
 - Soul-winning;
 - Submission.
 - It is talking about making your life a holy life.
 - A life patterned after the Word of God, and the holiness of God.
 - A life surrendered to God.

The invitation can be summed up by v. 24.

- Will you hear Jesus' sermons (The Word of God)?
- Will you make application of them?

We need to make application. Before we finish Jesus' great sermon, we need to reconsider it and respond to it.