

Inside Connection

Build Your House on the Rock

Matthew 7:1-29

OPENER -- What one word would you use to describe your community?

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

How do I build my life on the solid rock of Jesus?

1. _____ what Jesus' says.
2. _____ what Jesus says.

What are some specific ways your life has changed by practicing what the Bible teaches?

BACKGROUND

As we finish The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7), Jesus challenges us to "hear" and to "put into practice" his words. These are not normal words but words that abound with God's generosity toward us; words that come with God's authority that we must follow. John 17:8: "I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them." As we study the Bible, always remember that these are God's words – God's love letter – to us. Pray as you begin: Holy Spirit, help me to understand, to accept, and to do Jesus' words!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:1-5. Jesus begins with "Do not judge" (v 1) and then gets into a specific issue that involves judging others (vv 3-5). Share a time when you criticized someone and didn't realize that you had a "plank" in your own eye. How do these verses help you "build your house on a rock"? What does it mean for you to "take the plank out of your own eye first"?
2. Read Matthew 7:6. What does this mean? How does it apply to the previous conversation about not judging others and taking the plank out of your own eye?

3. Read Matthew 7:7-8. Reflect on the three imperatives: Ask, Seek, Knock. What is the point of these verses? How does prayer help us to build our house on the Rock?
4. Read Matthew 7:9-12. What is the point of vv 7-11? How do these verses connect with the "So" at the beginning of v 12? Why is the Golden Rule transformational in our relationship with God and our relationship with people?
5. Read Matthew 7:13-27. As Jesus finishes The Sermon on the Mount (vv 13-27), he directly challenges everyone to make a choice about who they will follow. Choose the narrow way (Jesus) or the wide way (Pharisees, false prophets). You need to discern if a prophet (teacher) is true or false. Examine yourself and see if you are a true or a false disciple. To sum it all up, you need to choose what kind of a builder you will be – wise or foolish. What questions do you have?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Reflecting on Matthew 5-7, how do you know that you are effectively practicing God's Word?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Lord Jesus, may we listen and practice your words! Be our Rock for the storms of life! Amen.

MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

"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. Matthew 7:21

TIME ALONE WITH GOD READING GUIDE

Day 1: Matthew 5

Day 2: Matthew 6

Day 3: Matthew 7

Day 4: Matthew 12:46-50

Day 5: Matthew 21:28-32

Day 6: Luke 11:14-28

Day 7: Matthew 8