



UNION TOWN
BIBLE CHURCH

Sermon Guide
January 4: Matthew 7:24-29

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaway:

1. Hearing vs. Doing - The difference between admiring Scripture and obeying it is the foundation of spiritual maturity.
2. Biblical Listening (Shema) - True listening means hearing God's Word and allowing it to change our behavior.
3. Obedience Flows from Love - Jesus doesn't expect perfection; He desires affection that naturally leads to obedience.
4. The Danger of Familiarity - The greatest risk isn't failing to read the Bible, but reading it without being transformed by it.

Discussion Questions:

1. We love the Bible "like inspirational quotes" - short, encouraging, and easy. Why do you think we struggle when Scripture challenges how we live, speak, spend money, or treat others?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-29 together. What's the difference between the wise builder and the foolish builder? What does Jesus emphasize as the key distinction?
3. In Matthew 7, we see that both builders heard Jesus' words. Why is hearing alone not enough? What does this reveal about the nature of true faith?
4. Which of Jesus' commands from the Sermon on the Mount do you find most challenging?
 - Love your enemies
 - Keep your word
 - Don't worry
 - Forgive those who wrong you
 - See all people as image bearers
5. The pastor described our internal "lawyer" that makes excuses when we hear God's Word. What excuses do you find yourself making most often when Scripture convicts you?

6. Think about the four questions we're encouraged to ask when reading Scripture:
 - What does this reveal about God?
 - What does this show about people/me?
 - Where's the good news of Jesus?
 - What should I do with this today?

Which question do you think will be easiest for you? Which will be most challenging?

7. How would you explain the difference between legalism (earning salvation through rule-keeping) and obedience that flows from grace to someone new to faith?
8. Jesus' expectation isn't perfection but affection. How does understanding this change your approach to obedience? How does it change how you respond when you fail? How does the example of teaching a child to ride a bike help you understand God's heart toward you as you learn to obey Him?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to the Every Word Reading Plan: Read one chapter of the New Testament each weekday (Monday-Friday) and use the four questions after each reading. You can download resources and sign up for daily text reminders at utown.org/everyword
2. Partner Up: Find people to check in with throughout the week about your reading.
3. Share One Thing: At the end of each day, text your partner one thing God showed you or one way you applied what you read.
4. Identify Your "Bike": What's one specific area where Jesus is calling you to obedience that feels scary or uncomfortable? Share it with your group and ask for prayer.
5. Family Application: Parents, identify one way you can walk through Scripture with your children this week using the resources at utown.org/everyword.