

“The Result of the Greatest Sermon Ever Preached”

Matthew 7:28-29; 8:1

“That was a great sermon!” How many pastors have heard that compliment or something similar from a church member or visitor following a morning service? Most people mean well when they say that. But not many sermons are really great.

A confident young pastor asked his wife on their way home from a morning service where he had preached, “How many really great preachers do you think there are in the world?” His wife wittingly replied, “One less than you think!”

Most scholars believe Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is the greatest sermon ever preached. If that is true, maybe we can learn something from evaluating the results. What were the over-all results of the “Greatest Sermon Ever Preached?” Consider two words that describe the result:

I. The multitudes were AMAZED (vv. 28-29)

(AMAZED, “to be exceedingly struck in mind and emotion” -It “blew their minds!”)

A. They were amazed at HIS TEACHING (v. 28)

(The sermon was Jesus’ instruction in a body of doctrinal and practical truth.)

B. They were amazed at HIS AUTHORITY (v.29)

W.E. Vines defines authority, “the power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others.”

1. Jesus spoke AS (not just for) GOD (cf. John 12:49)
2. Jesus had authority to HEAL THE SICK (chapter 8)
3. Jesus had authority to RAISE THE DEAD (chapter 9)

II. The multitudes were FOLLOWING (8:1)

(It is much easier to follow Him on the mountain in life, vitality, health and happiness than “down from the mountain” where there is sin, sickness, sadness, death and despair)

This sermon leaves us with two CRUCIAL QUESTIONS which we must answer for ourselves...today.

A. WHAT WILL IT COST ME to really follow Jesus?

1. An ENDURING COMMITMENT (cf. Mt. 10:22; 24:13)
2. Our PERSONAL PRIDE (cf. Mt. 10:32-33)
3. Some FAMILY TIES (cf. Mt. 10:34-38)

B. WHERE WILL IT LEAD ME if I really follow Jesus?

(Think about where Jesus, Himself, was led as He obeyed the Father.)

1. It will lead us to THE GARDEN WHERE HE PRAYED (cf. Mt. 26:39,41)
2. It will lead us to the CROSS WHERE HE DIED (cf. Mt. 16:34; 27:31)
3. It will lead us to HEAVEN WHERE HE REIGNS (cf. John 14:3; II Tim. 2:11-13)

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, AND THEY FOLLOW ME” (John 10:27). How amazed are you at the preaching of the Word of God? Are you willing to take up your cross and follow Him?