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Matthew 7:24-29

Meeting Jesus in Matthew: Dig Down Deep

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Introduction: **(S#1)**

1. Maybe some of you help your kids with their homework problems—you shouldn't ask me for help.
2. I know I don't look like a math-genius, but I took business calculus and statistics in College.
3. I really wanted to do well in the classes, so I sat up front, asked questions, and went to office hours.
4. One day my Calculus teacher turned to me in class and said, "Jonathan, do you get it?"
5. After that I had students I didn't know telling me they were in my Calculus class.
6. Even though I did well in both classes, I can't tell you how to do calculus or statistics today.
7. I listened very hard, and learned a lot, but I didn't put what I learned into practice in my own life.
8. Today we're ending of Part II of *Meeting Jesus in Matthew* and we all have a similar choice.
9. Are we going to take what we learned from Jesus and put it into practice or forget it?
10. Jesus challenged his disciples this same way by asking who they're going to live like.

(Are you going to hear and obey like a wise man who builds his house on rock?)

(Or are you going to hear and not obey like a foolish man who builds his house on the sand?) **(S#2)**

I. A true follower of Jesus hears Jesus and obeys him. **(Read Matt 7:24-25)**

(Our passage begins with a "therefore"; what's it there for? Sermon conclusion!)

(A wise builder puts the Sermon on the Mount into practice.)

- 1) Starting with the Beatitudes, we learned it all starts with grace. (5:1-20)
 1. Followers of Jesus are surprised by grace (v. 1-12).
 2. Followers of Jesus are seasoned with grace (v. 13)
 3. Followers of Jesus shine out grace (v. 14-16)
 4. Followers of Jesus are successful because of grace (v. 17-20)
 5. We become followers because of grace and Jesus expects us to share grace with others.
- 2) Then Jesus taught how followers of Jesus can't harbor hate in their hearts. (5:21-26)
 1. According to God's standards we're all murderers in thought, word, and deed.
 2. Through Jesus, we are forgiven, and he expects us to forgive those who hurt us.
- 3) Next Jesus confronts our relational sins, our lust, lies, and promise breaking. (5:27-37)
 1. To do these, in God's eyes, are as wrong as adultery, divorce, and breaking a promise with God.
 2. Jesus forgives us and is transforming us from covenant-breakers into covenant keepers.
- 4) After this we talked about an eye for an eye and loving our enemies (5:38-48)
 1. The world says that when we are mistreated, we need to stand up for our rights.
 2. But Jesus insists we return good for evil, insisting we love our enemies instead of hating them.
 3. Jesus expects Christians to act differently because... Grace isn't normal.
- 5) It got interesting when Jesus spoke about money, and how it reveals our hearts (6:1-4, 19-24)

1. He not only commands followers of Jesus to give God tithes and offerings.
 2. He expects us to serve him with our time too—ultimately investing everything in eternity.
- 6) I find the hardest commandment Jesus gives us is the next one, “Do not worry!” (6:25-34)
3. Jesus urges us to let our fears and anxiety go so we can cling to him.
- 7) More recently we learned how followers of Jesus aren’t supposed to judge others unfairly. (7:1-6)
1. We have a way of seeing the specks, the tiny issues in other’s lives, without examining our own.
 2. We speak truth/gospel graciously, honestly, and thoughtfully because that’s what Jesus did for us.
- 8) Last week we discovered the difference between a true follower of Jesus and a fake one (7:13-23)
1. A true follower takes the narrow path, bears fruit, and knows Jesus relationally.
 2. A true follower doesn’t just say and do the right things, she shares her heart with Christ.

(If you'll trust Jesus and obey him, you'll be like a man who built a flood-proof house.)

- B. Several summers ago there were fires in Colorado and then a lot of rain.
1. My brother’s family fled their apartment in ankle deep water.
 2. Their car was destroyed (CNN) and the apartment caked in mud (lost a lot).
 3. This is the type of flooding Jesus is describing as he overlooks the Sea of Galilee.
 4. In the summer, the sand around the lake would have baked hard.
 5. When the winter rains come, dry mountains caused flooding (flash floods).
 6. Luke 6:48a “They are like a man... who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock.”
 7. Putting our beliefs into practice is like digging to bedrock, it’s unseen, hard, and unappreciated.
 8. It’s hard to forgive others in our hearts, to give our money privately, to not judge unfairly.
 9. Jesus promises when hardships flood, we may be shaken, but not to our core.
 10. If we’ve experienced grace, it doesn’t matter how much others hurt us, we’ll be able to forgive.
 11. If we’ve dealt with our tempers and loving our enemies, our circumstances won’t control us.
 12. If we keep our promises and honor our marriages, our relationships will last even when it’s tough.

(A true follower of Jesus hears Jesus and obeys him.)

(But how do we identify the other man, the foolish man who built on sand?) (S#3)

II. A pretend follower of Jesus looks a lot like a true follower. (Read Matt 7:26-27)

- A. A pretend Christian looks a lot like a real Christian.
1. Two people building their houses next to each other are like two friends going to church.
 2. They both listen to the same message, go to the same small group, and serve on the same team.
 3. But only one takes Jesus to heart, truly believes, and seeks to put into practice his teachings.
 4. Monica and I were at the beach in Newburyport one evening when bulldozers were pushing sand.
 5. There are a row of very expensive beachfront houses that are in danger of being washed away.
 6. In about 2,000 years it's predicted that Cape Cod will be nothing but shoals and islands.
 7. Doing all the religious things but never really committing to Jesus is like pushing sand.
 8. Jesus says living this way leads to “a great crash” to a “collapse” in this life and the next.
 9. Not obeying Jesus' teachings leads to bitterness, greed, anxiety, adultery, divorce, and death.
 10. Even worse than the consequences in this life is the final judgement. (S#4)

Genesis 7:11–12 ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. (NIV®)

(God judged the whole world when he sent the flood and he's going to do it again but with fire.)
(Disobeying Jesus will lead to hardships in this life and destruction in the next.)

- A. If you’re a true follower of Jesus, don’t be discouraged.
 - 1. It’s easy to look at other people’s walks with God and get frustrated.
 - 2. You see all the ways they’re gifted and seem to be honoring God.
 - 3. But remember, you can’t see their foundation—where they’re truly at!
 - 4. You can’t see if they’re truly obeying from the inside out—where their hearts at.
 - 5. Jesus wants us to deal with our hearts, with building our own solid foundation.

(The deeper we dig, the more we get to know Jesus—see Jesus is our foundation.) **(S#5)**

III. We dig down deep to Christ our Cornerstone.

Matthew 21:42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ (NIV®) **(S#6)**

- A. Dig down deep to Christ our Cornerstone.
 - 1. A cornerstone was the most important stone that straightened and leveled the foundation.
 - 2. Jesus is our foundation b/c he trusted and obeyed perfectly God on our behalf (He is wise man).
 - 3. He’s calling us to build our lives on him, to build an everlasting future on his accomplishments.
 - 4. Notice how the passage ends; “he taught as one who had authority...” (v. 28) **(Read 7:28-29)**
 - 5. Teachers relied on tradition, but Jesus says his words are enough (“these words of mine...”)
 - 6. Our culture also tells us how to live (judge others, have sex before marriage, do your own thing).
 - 7. Jesus wants to know and love you for all eternity, but that relationship begins with trust.
- B. We dig down deep to Christ three ways: **(S#7-9)**
 - 1. First, we confess our sins to Jesus. (Confess we fail Sermon on Mt., judging, anxiety, lies, lust)
 - 2. Second, we believe and trust in Jesus. (We believe Jesus saves, forgive, and transforms; Gospel)
 - 3. Third, we obey the teachings of Jesus. (We put Sermon into action by Spirit, Top10, Big Day)

(Dig down deep to Christ our Cornerstone.) **(S#10)**

Conclusion:

- 1. I grew up in Colorado, so our house was built on dirt and rocks, but we still had a cement foundation.
- 2. If you were to step out back, there was a small cement patio that was like an extension of our foundation.
- 3. It was only about 12 feet long and maybe four feet deep at its widest portion.
- 4. If you look closely at the cement you’ll see four sets of small handprints. **(S#11-Show Pic)**
- 5. That’s where four red-headed boys pressed their tiny fingers and palms into fresh cement.
- 6. Each of us carved our initials into that foundation and it’s lasted till this day.
- 7. Jesus is inviting us to come and press our lives into him by trusting and obeying him.

8. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which you and I can build our lives today and forever
9. Come and engrave your name in Christ; it'll last for eternity.
10. Dig down deep to Christ our Cornerstone.

Benediction: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen." Philippians 4:23 NIV