

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Matthew 7:21-27

### *A Christian's Commitment*

#### I. Review: SOM in a Nutshell

##### A. Introduction to the Sermon

1. A Kingdom member's Character (Matt 5:1-12)
2. Salt and Light in the World (Matt 5:13-16)

##### B. Body of the Sermon

1. Jesus Fulfills the Entire Old Testament (Matt 5:17-18)
2. Jesus Explains Old Testament Law (Matt 5:21-48)
3. Living under the Fatherhood of God (Matt 6:1-34)
4. Living under the Judgment of God (Matt 7:1-12)

##### C. Climax and Application of Sermon

1. Jesus' Kingdom compels choices to be made
  - i. Two Gates (Matt 7:13-14)
  - ii. Two Influences (Matt 7:15-23)
  - iii. Two Foundations (Matt 7:24-27)

"The Lord Jesus winds up the Sermon on the Mount by a passage of heart-piercing application. He turns from false prophets to false professors, from unsound teachers to unsound hearers." -

#### II. Only Profession of Faith, Not Possession of Faith

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (Matt 7:21-23)*

1. On the surface, how does the confession Jesus describes appear wholly admirable? Orthodox? Fervent? Active? What are some modern examples of this?

"Take heed to yourselves lest you should be void of that saving grace of God which you offer to others, and be strangers to the effectual working of that gospel which you preach...Many men have warned others that they come not to the place of torment, while they hastened to it themselves; many a preacher is now in hell, who hath an hundred times called upon his hearers to use the utmost care and diligence to escape it....Many a tailor goes in rags, that maketh costly clothes for others; and many a cook scarcely licks his fingers, when he hath dressed for others the most costly dishes. Believe it, brethren, God never saved any man for being a preacher, nor because he was an able preacher: but because he was a justified, sanctified man, and consequently faithful in his Master's work " -

2. Surprisingly, what does Jesus say about these "professors"? What is the main point He is making?

3. What do these solemn, startling words encourage us to do? How should they cause us to love the Word of God more? How do they protect us from "hero worship" in the Reformed church?

*"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46)*

*"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." (John 14:21)*

*"[W]hile man flatters himself on account of the outward mask of righteousness that he wears, the Lord meanwhile weighs in his scales the secret impurity of the heart." – John Calvin, Institutes, 3.12.5*

### III. Only Intellectual Knowledge, Not Heart-felt Trust

<sup>24</sup> "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." (Matt 7:24-27)

1. Who are the two people mentioned? A professing Christian and a self-described non-Christian? Two professing Christians? Why? Describe the appearance of their lives.
2. What is different about the two houses and what does this metaphorical difference refer to? Why is it so difficult to tell the difference?
3. What reveals the difference between the two houses?
4. What does it mean that the wise man "dug deep" in order to build his house (Luke 6:48)? Does this characterize your pursuit of holiness, "without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb 12:14)?

Will we:

- Exhibit the character of a Kingdom member?
- Have a righteousness that isn't just surface deep, but reaches into the heart?
- Grant a love that extends even to enemies?
- Display a piety that avoids the ostentation of hypocrites or showy prayers of pagans?
- Cultivate real and honest giving, praying, and fasting, not for man's praise, but for God's glory?
- Choose as our treasure the enduring things of eternity, rather than what disintegrates on earth?
- Have God as our Master, rather than money?
- Make as our ambition the extension of God's rule and righteousness in the world, rather than material security?

- Imitate our heavenly Father, being a peacemaker with our enemies?
- Follow the narrow path of repentance and sacrifice along with a few saints, leading to life, rather than follow the popular way of the world to destruction?
- Be swayed by the winds of public opinion and flashy spiritual leaders, or be ruled by the sure promises of God's word and listen to those who faithfully proclaim it?
- Will we hastily build our house, enjoying the trappings of superficial church life, without truly hearing and obeying the King, particularly when the trials come?