

Following The Way Of The Kingdom: Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

**First Methodist Church of Tulsa
Fall 2025
Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson**

*Session 10: Putting it All Together
November 19, 2025*

MATTHEW 7:24

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

1. Take some time to examine your thought patterns about who you are. Write down a list, not of your roles or titles, but of who you think you are. Compare them with Scripture (new creation, co-heir with Christ, etc.) Which voice is louder? Which voice is more authoritative?

2. Think about your average day. Make a list of the practices of your life (brushing your teeth, drinking coffee, the way you go about your duties.) Are there ways to do those things with Jesus? What would that look like?

3. How are the people around you affecting your reality and the way you see yourself? Is any of that out of line with what the Scriptures say?

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How are we building our house? In other words, how am I becoming righteous?

We cannot change simply by saying, "I want to change." We have to examine what we think (our narratives) and how we practice (the spiritual disciplines) and who we are interacting with (our social context). - JBS

Change the Narrative (examine how we think) What is reality?

"the only way we can position ourselves to see our promises fulfilled is by refusing to define ourselves according to anything but what God has said about us." – Bill Johnson

Narrative among the people in the SotM: the Pharisees are righteous because they don't do certain things and because they do certain things. The blessed life is different than what Jesus says. Provision is totally dependent upon us, not God (the Exodus and Numbers problem, manna and the promised land)

Change your Habits (how we practice) What is the blessed life, righteousness?

Heart transformation is God's work.

But, we can put ourselves into positions that lower the barriers and resistance to that transforming work.

- 1) Choose to see through God's reality.
- 2) Realize that it's the heart that affects our actions.
- 3) Give, pray, fast.
- 4) Trust God.
- 5) Discern.

6) Build your house upon the rock.
Midweek Winter's class will be primarily about this.

Change your Influence (participating in community) How do I become righteous

Going back to this quotation: "the only way we can position ourselves to see our promises fulfilled is by refusing to define ourselves according to anything but what God has said about us." – Bill Johnson

- Had to refigure my group chats this week.

How are the people around you affecting your reality and the way you see yourself? Is any of that out of line with what the Scriptures say?

What does the sermon on the mount say?

Redefines what a blessed life is

"You are the salt of the earth." "You are the light of the world." You are.

You must be perfect – Mt. 5:48

You are a giver, a prayer, and a faster.

You are watched over and cared for.

You are God's child (7:7-11)

Healthy Tree

A house built upon the rock.

You need *people*. Are you spending time with the people that are helping you become more like Christ?

Follow up and questions.