DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEXT SUMMARY

In today's text, Matt 7:21-29, Jesus closes the Sermon with a two-fold warning:

- Not all who call Him "Lord" will have a part in His Kingdom.
- Not all who hear His Word will survive the storms of life.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

1. Verses 21-23 portray an awful moment when people discover too late that they have no part in Jesus' Kingdom.
    - What kind of evidence of ministry do they cite to make their claim that they belong in the Kingdom?
    - Jesus' dismissal of the pretenders is curt:
        - What statement does He make concerning them?
        - What command does He give them?
        - What does He call them?
2. Jesus employs one final word-picture to illustrate the difference between those who hear and obey and those who hear but do not obey. Before the storms arrive, what is the apparent difference between the two houses?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

The subheads in our Bibles sometimes interrupt the flow of thought in the text. This seems to be the case in v. 15-23. What evidence is there that the ones who are protesting their exclusion at the Judgment (v. 21-23) are the false prophets Jesus warns about (v. 15-20)?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

1. **Verses 21-23 are terrifying because Jesus' abrupt dismissal of the pretenders seems to come as such a surprise to them.**

    - The pretenders called Him "Lord" but apparently neglected to obey Him. Have you ever (perhaps now) placed a "NO TRESPASSING" sign on an aspect of your life to excuse your disobedience?

    - What confidence do you have that you will find a welcome into the Kingdom on that day? Where does this confidence come from?

2. **The Epistle of James also speaks to the matter of hearing the Word but neglecting to obey it** (James 1:22-25).

    - What is the danger in hearing but not obeying the Word (James 1:22)?

    - What word-picture does James employ to make his point (James 1:23-25)?

    - Was there ever a time in your life (perhaps now) when you excelled in hearing the Word and yet neglected to obey it?

        - Were you troubled by your duplicity, or did you lie to yourself and believe your own lies?

        - If you were troubled by your duplicity, how did you manage that guilt?

        - If you lied to yourself, how did you justify your disobedience to yourself?