

Parables: Showing the Way of Jesus

The Way of Obedience

Matthew 7:24-27

We are in a summer sermon series through 9 of the approximately 40-parables of Jesus in the NT. Parables (practical stories illustrating spiritual truth) serve 2 purposes:

- 1) Reveal Secrets to Those Who Desire the Truth
- 2) Conceal Secrets from Those Who Deny the Truth.

We can better understand these parables as we do 3 things:

- 1) Listen from the Hearers Perspective
- 2) Look for the Main Point
- 3) Let the Truth Change Our Perspective

Today's parable is taken from the end of the longest sermon of Jesus recorded in the Bible (Sermon on the Mount) where he said many shocking things. He goes after the false righteousness of the religious leaders and calls people to true righteousness that only he can provide for them and describes what that looks like in our lives.

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 5:20**

Main Idea: The Way of Jesus Calls for Faithful Obedience to His Word

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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. 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. 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." **Matthew 7:24-27**

Three Elements of the Way of Obedience in Matthew 7:24-27:

I. Hearing

While hearing the word of Jesus doesn't automatically make you wise, not hearing the words of Jesus will result in foolish ignorance!

"The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both." **Proverbs 20:12**

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." **Romans 10:17**

Hearing is a Pre-Requisite for Living Life Wisely...

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine...And everyone who hears the words of mine..." **Matthew 7:24a, 26a // Who are YOU Hearing in Your Life???**

We must make every effort to hear the words of Christ through all possible avenues (reading the Scriptures, prayer time, faithful preaching, biblical music, and Christ-following friends) with due awareness for our own biases and tendencies. But, Jesus is speaking to us and is eager to make us wise...if we will start by HEARING!

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II. Obeying

Hearing is important but it is not enough for the Way of Jesus. Wise and foolish is not determined by intellect, but is a spiritual and moral state of being. Whether one is wise or foolish is determined by a response to Jesus' teaching!

"Everyone then who hears the words of mine and does them will be like a wise man...(contrasted with)...And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man..." **Matthew 7:24a, 26a // It's continued, ongoing obedience!**

"The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is not meant to be admired but to be obeyed." **R.T. France**

We do not need more God Talk, We need simple obedience to what Jesus calls us to embrace!

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." **James 1:22**

What is one area of your life where you are a "hearer only" of the word of God? What's keeping you from being a "Doer"? It's no small thing because obedience to God's word is the evidence that your life is built on the rock of Jesus Christ and disobedience is the evidence that your life is built on shifting sands.

"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." **Matthew 7:21**

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III. Benefiting

Jesus doesn't just tell us the difference between wise and foolish living, he tells us the benefits of our lives being firmly fixed on the rock of his identity...

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Usually we look at this passage and assume the storms to which Jesus refers are the usual storms of life that every goes through...

"Those storms are real and they are painful – storms like cancer, divorce, and losing a loved one – and the Bible certainly addresses them. However, Jesus is referring to a cataclysmic reality, a final and utterly devastating storm of the future judgement of God." **David Platt**

Why can't I stop gossiping? Greediness? Unforgiveness? Prayerlessness? Selfishness? Why do I always lose my patience in stress? Struggle to admit when I'm wrong & apologize to the people I love? **These are cracks in your wall that may indicate your life is not built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and a Bigger Storm is Coming:** Not only does hearing & obeying Jesus help you deal with the smaller storms of life, but it indicates that we are prepared for the much bigger storm that is on the way: the Storm of God's Judgment.

"Therefore thus says the LORD GOD: I will make a stormy wind break out in my wrath, and there shall be a deluge of rain in my anger, and great hailstones in wrath to make a full end. And I will break down the wall that you have smeared with whitewash, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you shall perish in the midst of it, and you shall know that I am the LORD." Ezekiel 13:13-14

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The good news is that you withstand the storms of life AND the coming storm of the judgment of God by Building Your Life on the Foundation of Jesus!!! It's true.

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

To hear the words of Jesus and obey the words of Jesus identifies you as someone who's life is "IN CHRIST." That means the storms of life don't hit as hard and that you are ready for the final judgement of God because you are "IN" someone who has already been judged.

"For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:3-4

When you are born again into Christ Jesus, you can say:

"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Psalm 18:2

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- **CSB Study Bible** – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- **Exalting Jesus in Matthew** – D. Akin, D. Platt & T. Merida (2013)
- **Bible Exposition Commentary** – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- **New American Commentary: Matthew** – Craig Blomberg (1992)
- **The Gospel of Matthew** – William Barclay (1976)
- **Spurgeon Study Bible** – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- **Tony Evans Study Bible** – Tony Evans (2019)
- **Holeman NT Commentary: Matthew** – Stuart Weber (2000)