

YOU CHOOSE

Pastor Chad Gilligan | June 25, 2023

I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 7:28-29 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

- What will you do with the Sermon on The Mount?
- What will you do with the teachings of Jesus?
- What will you do with Jesus?

II. THREE THINGS TO CONSIDER

- The crowds were amazed.

Matthew 7:28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

- Amazed at His teaching.

Matthew 7:29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

- Amazed at His authority.

1. *Amazement Is Not Enough*

- You can be amazed and still not follow Jesus.

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 7:22-23 “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

2. *Playing the Part is Not Enough*

- **Just because you wear the jersey, it does not mean you're on the team.**

A. **You have a choice to make.**

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

- Will you choose the narrow gate?

Matthew 7:20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

- Will you produce good fruit?

Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

- Will you build on the rock?

B. **You can look the part and still not follow Jesus.**

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Matthew 24:12-13 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

- Do not let your love grow cold.

Galatians 4:8-9 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

2 Timothy 2:14-19 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. ¹⁹

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

- Are you led by the way of the crowd or the Word of God?
- Are you bearing good spiritual fruit?
- Are you doing what Jesus taught?

3. The Way into God's Kingdom is to Follow Jesus

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.