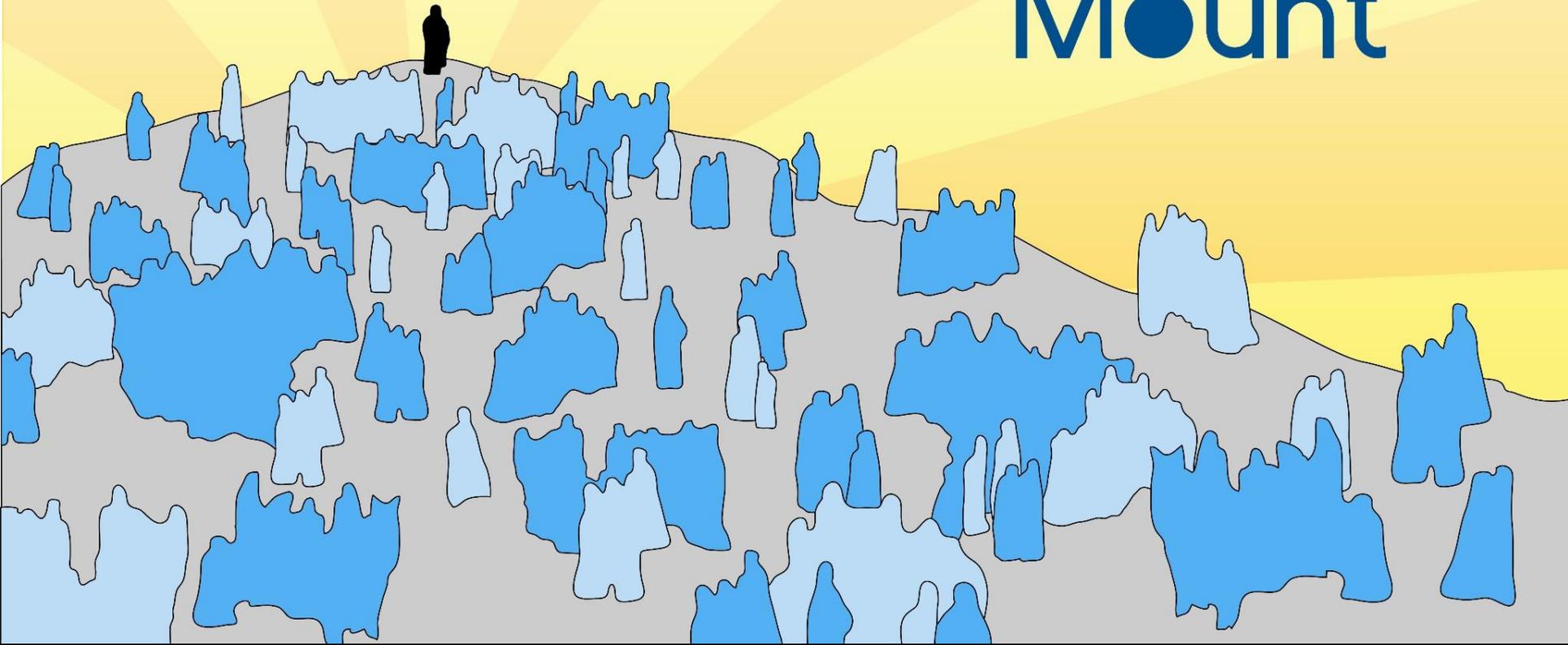


The Sermon on The Mount



Sermon On The Mount Series

Concluding the Sermon on The Mount.

- The Sermon is Jesus' vision statement for His kingdom, and what He expects of His disciples.
- The sermon ends with a number of illustrations that depict what authentic discipleship looks like.

Matthew 7:24-29 NKJV

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: (25) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. (26) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

Matthew 7:24-29 NKJV

"and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (28) And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, (29) for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:24 NKJV

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

- The previous verse contrasted those who called Jesus Lord and either did or did not, do the will of the Father.
- This section contrasts those who HEAR Jesus' word and either does them or not

Matthew 7:24 NKJV

- Eerdmans: “If words without action have just been condemned, now hearing without action is condemned.”
- “These saying of Mine” : Jesus makes an astounding claim of authority. Not only in dictating how a person should live, but also how they will be judged eternally. Entirely based upon their response to His teaching.

Matthew 7:24 NKJV

- Jewish talk show host Dennis Prager (during talk with Ravi Zacharias and Jeff Foxworthy) described how he was trained to ALWAYS quote the source before making any statement. I thought of this passage.
- Jesus didn't vary from this tradition of the Scribes.
- Jesus was quoting the source -- He IS the source!

Matthew 7:24 NKJV

- “And does them” is the emphasis - Which reveals the inward character of being “wise”
- Same Greek word used throughout this section (poieō - poy-eh'-o) “to do” or “bear”
- Our actions reveal our nature. The message of the Gospel is that our nature can be renewed through authentic relationship with Jesus as our savior.
- This is the theme that connects this whole section from vs. 13 through 29.

Matthew 7:25 NKJV

“And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

- Rain, floods and winds likely represent the trials of life. Some think it may refer to coming judgments of God.
- I think what Jesus is teaching is that the judgment will be based on the decisions and actions we make in response to the issues and pressures we face in our life.

Matthew 7:25 NKJV

- At issue is whether we respond according to the will of the Father and Jesus' words or disregard them and practice lawlessness, both demonstrating whether our relationship with the Father and Jesus is authentic or not.
- It's very important that Jesus does not say we will avoid storms if we are obedient, He says we will endure the storms!
- A 'Promise of Scripture' - you will be rained on, flooded, blown and beat upon.

Matthew 7:25 NKJV

- The blessing: If you're life is built upon Jesus' words and the "will of the Father" then you will "not fall" or 'fail'
- "Founded on the rock" - **Isaiah 28:16-17 NLT**
Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken."

Matthew 7:25 NKJV

- (17) I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness. Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away.
- **1 Peter 2:6-8 NKJV** Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHIEF CORNERSTONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS, AND HE WHO BELIEVES ON HIM WILL BY NO MEANS BE PUT TO SHAME."

Matthew 7:25 NKJV

- (7) Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE," (8) and "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.
 - "You who believe" is contrasted with "those who are disobedient"

Matthew 7:25 NKJV

- In the Hebrew mind, and language, there is no difference between 'believe' and 'obey'
- If you believe you will obey, if you disobey - you demonstrate you are not believing

Matthew 7:26 - 27 NKJV

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: (27) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

- Both individuals hear the same words, build a house, and experience the same storms of life.

Matthew 7:26 - 27 NKJV

- Never judge yourself or others by the circumstances they are in - everyone experiences storms, floods and being beat upon. Your storm may look different than your neighbors, or friends, or the person in a lifestyle you can't imagine.
- What Jesus is teaching applies to all - hear Him and do what He says, and you'll have the wisdom to build your life in a way that can endure the storms of life.

Matthew 7:24 - 27 The Message

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. (25) Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit--but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

Matthew 7:24 - 27 The Message

(26) "But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. (27) When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

Jesus Presents Two Types of People

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Authentic	Not Authentic
Choose narrow & hard path	Choose wide & easy path
Sheep	Wolves
Good tree bears good fruit	Bad tree bears bad fruit
Do will of the Father	Practice lawlessness
Hear & do His teaching	Hear & not do His teaching
Wise	Foolish
Built on the rock	Built on sand
Prevailed	Failed

Which type do you want to be?

According to Jesus' teaching, what determines which category we end up in?

- Our choices and our actions
- No other outside influence or circumstances

What a powerful picture Jesus paints.

- Who we are is determined by how we respond to Jesus' teaching
- What we do reveals who we are.

Which type do you want to be?

LAB: “Most people do not deliberately seek to build on a false or inferior foundation; instead, they just don’t think about their life’s purpose. Many people are headed for destruction, not out of stubbornness but out of thoughtlessness.

Part of our responsibility as believers is to help others stop and think about where their lives are headed and to point out the consequences of ignoring Christ’s message.”

Which type do you want to be?

- I would add that most have never heard Jesus' teaching, and don't even know there is another option.
- Our challenge is to present the message in a way that makes sense, does not dilute it, and draws people into it.
- This always **BEGINS** by demonstrating it personally.

Matthew 7:28 -29

NKJV And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, (29) for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

MSG When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. (29) It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying--quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.

Matthew 7:28 -29

- We are called to be Christ-like in our personal life as well as in the way we present of the message of His teaching.
- In doing so, I believe that, like the crowd responded to Jesus, when people encounter authentic disciples declaring an authentic gospel, there will be a powerful response.

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