

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew" ... Matthew was a Jewish man writing about the Jewish Messiah to a Jewish audience.
- * The Message of John and Jesus was the same: "Repent (*metanoia* - *change the way you think*) for the kingdom of the Heavens has drawn near!"
- * Jesus is conveying the Standard of the Kingdom; a standard which is different and higher than that of the world, and which is definitive in nature: you cannot serve the world and God at the same time! You must choose between the two.
- * In this final phase of the 'Sermon on the Mount' Jesus has revealed that the Kingdom Standard is also a Practical Standard. The application of this Different, Higher, Definitive standard should bring discernment to those who follow it.
- * Over the past two weeks we have considered our need for discernment regarding our Insights and our Path.
- * Today, we see Jesus' culmination of this entire "Sermon on the Mount" with a challenge to consider Our Foundation.

INSTRUCTION

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| I. A DIFFERENT STANDARD (5:1-16) | II. A HIGHER STANDARD (5:17-48) | III. A DEFINITIVE STANDARD (6:1-34) |
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- IV. A PRACTICAL STANDARD (Matthew 7:1-29) ... *The Application of this Different, Higher, Definitive Standard should bring discernment.***
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| A. Regarding Your Insights (v. 1-12) | 1. YOUR IMPERFECTIONS (v. 1-5)
2. YOUR AUDIENCE (v. 6) | 3. YOUR IGNORANCE (v. 7-11)
4. YOUR MOTIVATION (v. 12) |
| B. Regarding Your Path (v. 13-23) | 1. CHOOSING YOUR WAY | 2. CHOOSING YOUR TEACHERS |
- C. Regarding Your Foundation (v. 24-29; cf. James 1:22-25)**
1. THE MESSIAH'S S _____ OF HIS TEACHING (v. 24-27)
 - a. The B _____ of the Analogy:
 - b. The C _____ of the Analogy: (cf. James 1:22-25; 1 Corinthians 3:9-20)
 - i. *THE DOER OF THE WORD IS A HOUSE ON A ROCK*
 - ii. *THE HEARER ONLY IS A HOUSE ON THE SAND*
 2. THE PEOPLE'S A _____ AT HIS TEACHING (v. 28-29)
 - a. The E _____ of Christ's Authority ...
 - i. HIS W _____ (cf. John 7:16; 8:28; 12:49; 17:8)
 - ii. HIS W _____ (cf. John 10:24-39)
 - b. The E _____ of Christ's Authority (Matthew 28:18-20)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE WORDS OF THE MESSIAH TO YOU?
- * ARE YOU A DOER OF THE WORD, OR A HEARER ONLY?
- * UPON WHOSE AUTHORITY ARE YOU RELYING? IS YOUR LIFE BUILT ON THE ROCK, OR SHIFTING SAND?
- * ARE YOU FOLLOWING HIS COMMANDS ... ARE YOU SEEKING TO MAKE DISCIPLES?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * How do we, as a body, make sure that we are continually "building on a sure foundation"?
- * What is the basis of the authority of our teaching? Whose responsibility is it to ensure that we maintain this focus?
- * What implications, by "extension," does this have upon our goals and plans - as a church?