



Living the Jesus Way

Session 10:

How to Build a Secure Future

Matthew 7:24-29 (NIV)

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. Matthew 7:24 (NIV) “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. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ 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. Matthew 7:24 - 29 (NIV)

The Sermon on the Mount wasn't given as the way of salvation for the lost, but as the way of life for the children of the kingdom. The essence of Discipleship. Transforming a disciple's life.

Class Notes:

- Session 1: 'How to Find the Secret of Happiness' - Jesus is the center of our worshipping life.
- Session 2: 'How to Handle Anger'- Anger out of love is a righteous anger. Anger out of hurting is an unrighteous anger
- Session 3: 'How to Live With Integrity' - Cultivate a Jesus focused heart without faking it
- Session 4: 'How to Conduct Ourselves as Sexual Beings' - Seek pleasure as a god - in the long run we find emptiness, disappointment, and addiction. Seek God first and we find, among many other things, ecstatic pleasure.
- Session 5: 'How to View Marriage and Divorce' - The heart of the gospel is reconciliation
- Session 6: 'How to Respond to Difficult People'
- Session 7: 'How to Stop Worrying and Start Living' - If we seek material things, we are missing out on the whole point in life.
- Session 8: 'How to Change the World Around You' - Bring hope, help, and love to those around you without expectation
- Session 9: 'How to Understand the Old Testament' - Read the Old Testament through Jesus and to understand Jesus
- Session 10: 'How to Build a Secure Future'

- ‘UNDERSTANDING’ THE FUTURE?
 - Predictions of the future are subject to unknown circumstances, unless....
 - Yogi Berra “It is tough to make a prediction, especially about the future”, unless....
 -unless:
 - Our view of the future is based on ‘circumstances’ that are known, foundational and unchangeable thus inviting us to predict with boldness
 - We don’t just ‘hear’ these ‘circumstances’ that are foundational and unchangeable, but we put these ‘circumstances’ to use
 - We focus on given ‘circumstances’ combined with our focus on those circumstances we control

- A GIVEN ‘CIRCUMSTANCE’ - JESUS

- CIRCUMSTANCES WE CONTROL
 - Hearing and living the Good News of Jesus
 - Redefine what a secure future is and looks like through the lens of Jesus

- BEING PREPARED FOR THE UNKNOWN THAT BECOMES A STORM
 - Recognize that a secure future is not about what is seen but may be more about what is not seen
 - Wise versus foolish - there are limited alternatives for our approach to facing the unknown and the life circumstances we don’t control...bedrock or sand

- BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION - Bedrock versus sand
 - Asking tough questions: Present and future
 - Why are we here?
 - What is the meaning of life?
 - What is my ultimate purpose? Relationship with God
 - Now that I know my purpose, what should I be doing with my life?
 - Being honest with answers
 - Am I basing my ultimate purpose on bedrock or sand?

- TAKE ACTION
 - Long term - Adequate time to think and plan
 - Matthew 7:24 “....puts them into practice...”
 - Short term - Instant gratification
 - Matthew 7:26 “....and does not put them into practice....”
 - Different results - A return on your investment of time and where you focus

- RESPONDING TO JESUS
 - Know Him....not enough...may be nothing more than an intellectual knowledge
 - Admire Him...not enough...may be for the wrong attributes
 - Follow Him and obey Him...moving from thought to behavior
 - Take action by putting his words into practice out of love for Him, not as a to-do list to get into heaven.

- “.....¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.” Romans 2:13 (NIV)
- Regardless of our response:
 - “...²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God....” Romans 3:23 (NIV)
- The Sermon on the Mount wasn’t given as the way of salvation for the lost, but as the way of life for the children of the kingdom. The essence of Discipleship. Transforming a disciple’s life.
 - A call to repentance
 - Jesus setting out who he is
 - We recognize that we can’t live like this without the help of the Spirit

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to put the words of Jesus into practice? Do you feel that you already do this? If so, how? If not, how can you start?

2. Why does Jesus say that we are in control of what our future holds? Discuss what it means to have a secure future.

3. What is Jesus referring to when he talks about ‘houses’? What can we do to ensure they remain strong when they are exposed to the eroding forces around us (see Matthew 7:25)?

4. What are the similarities and differences between the two builders in Jesus’ story?

5. How can we be sure that we are followers, and not just admirers, of Jesus?