

**“The Sermon on the Mount (pt. 5)
Reminders to the Christians”
Matthew 7**

Open:

- This chapter will be divided into four sections.
 - Reminders about *righteous* judgement.
 - Reminders about *responses* to needs.
 - Last week we looked at the first two this week we will study that last two.
 - Reminders about *remaining* on the straight and narrow.
 - Reminders about *responding* to the truth.
- This chapter was Christ’s closing comments to His followers.
 - Jesus wanted to leave His followers with a few reminders about a few things in the Christian life that are easy to forget.

I. Reminders to Christians about remaining on the straight and narrow. (vs. 13-23)

- a. **We need to decide what outcome we want in life and allow that to dictate which path we take. (vs. 13-14)**
- We must realize we cannot get God’s results man’s way; nor can we enjoy the blessings of God and the pleasures of sin for a season.
 - i. God’s way – **Ps. 27:11-14** *“Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. [12] Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. [13] I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. [14] Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”*
 - 1. We need to ask God for wisdom in understanding which path is His.
 - 2. We need to ask God for guidance while on His path.
 - 3. We need to realize that just because we are in God’s will, it does not eliminate times of difficulty; but we can have the promise of reward when we obey while on His path.
 - ii. Man’s way – **Prov. 14:11-12** *“The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. [12] There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (**Prov. 2:12-22**)
 - 1. It’s important to understand where a road leads before choosing to get on that road.
 - 2. Be careful not to choose a path based on your wisdom.
 - 3. We need to recognize the devil will put on his billboards only what he wants you to see, he will not show you where those actions will lead you.
- *The reason few people find life on the narrow road is because they are seeking the way they will go by using carnal knowledge and man’s logic.*

b. Beware of false prophets. **(15-20)**

○ Do not allow yourself to be led astray by man's wisdom, philosophy, or vain religion.

i. **Just because a man claims to be preaching God's message does not make him God's messenger; check his credentials against God's Word.**

1. Check the message they are preaching. **Jer. 14:14** *"Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart."*

○ **II Peter 2:1** – Secretly bringing in "damnable heresies"

2. Check the direction they are leading people. **Jer. 14:16** *"And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them."*

ii. Compare the fruits they are producing.

1. Works of the Flesh. **Gal. 5: 19 -21** *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

2. Fruit of the Spirit. **Gal. 5: 22 -24** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

iii. We are not to trust our own ability when it comes to judging personalities, we must simply compare the fruits they are producing. **I John 4:1** *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

- **The best way to guard against false teachings and teachers is to continue in the old paths.** Avoid those things which are "modern". **II Tim. 3:13-15** *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. [14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; [15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

II. Reminders to the Christian about their response to the truth. (vs. 24-29)

- Many Christians judge their response to truth by how they receive the truth; instead of how they live the truth they received with a good attitude.
- a. **Those who choose to listen and obey will find their life standing strong through the storms of life.**
Choose to build your life on the rock. **Mt. 7:24-25** “*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*”
 - i. We are to be doers of the word not hearers only. **James 1:22-24** “*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. [23] For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: [24] For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*”
 - ii. A wise person will listen and obey, while a fool will debate and set off to prove his way better. **Prov. 1:5** “*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*”
- b. **Those who choose to disobey will find their lives being destroyed.** **Mt. 7:26-27** “*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: [27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*”

Close:

- Choose to leave the judging up to God and spend your life as a witness for Christ.
- Choose to deal with needs in your life and the needs of people around you in a Christ like manner.
- Choose to live your life by godly principles so you can live the life God intended for you to live.
- Choose to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only.

Prov. 13:20

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

“Review Questions”

1. We need to decide what **?????** we want in our life and allow that to dictate which path we take. **Outcome.**
2. According to II Tim. 3:13-15 The best way to guard against false teachings and teachers is to do what? **By continuing in the old paths.**
3. Just because a man claims to be preaching God’s message does not make him God’s messenger; check his credentials against what? **God’s Word.**
4. Those who choose to listen and **?????** will find their life standing strong through the storms of life. **Obey.**
5. Those who choose to **?????** will find their lives being destroyed. **Disobey.**