

Intro: When I was a kid pickup baseball games in the field at the end of street were a daily summer activity!
Always went something like this. Gather people: Pick teams: Go over the rules! (Important!)

Woods: Swamp from 2nd to 1st Double (Unless lose ball) Swamp 2nd to 3rd (HR...Unless lose ball)
Whenever someone new came...had to go over the ground rules...so everyone was on board!

That is what Jesus is doing in the Sermon on the Mount. He is going over the ground rules! Very early in Him ministry
Crowds are beginning to respond, recently identified and called his 12 disciples...and so as He "goes public" He sits all down

Jesus is doing a number of different things...All of them very important. But at it's core He is saying:
If you are going to be one of my disciples: THIS is what it looks like! Let's be clear, Everyone on same page: GROUND RULES

As we continue to talk about living a life of Overflow: 3 Keys: Learning From Jesus: Loving Like Jesus: Living Like Jesus
Today: Learning from Jesus: By looking at Sermon on Mount: BUT we are going backwards: End First: Then Beginning
Learning From Jesus: Matthew 7:24-29 Page 686

1. Authority: WHY Do We Need To Learn From Jesus? He Is The Ultimate Authority In A Disciples Life Vs 29

- Start with the ending! In order for it all to make sense, we have to have the right perspective.
- **Authority:** Lit = Power; Right; delegated influence Jesus spoke with the authority of God and power of Holy Spirit

Understand what the sermon on Mount is NOT

- Not a series of suggestions from a respected religious leader
- Not a set of moral actions that help you be a better person
- Not a list of self-improvement options to incorporate or not incorporate as they work for you
- Not a buffet of nice to do religious activities that we get to pick and choose from!

Understand what Sermon on Mount IS:

- Ground rules and expectations for a follower of Jesus: For all disciples: Not Super Saints: How we are to live
- God's communication to us through His Son and by power of Holy Spirit of what the life of a Child of God is like
- a set of expectations to be lived out: Not a series of suggestions to be selected from, Not Optional!
- Not a list of things to KNOW but a Character Transformation that needs to be implemented by power of HS

Key: Jesus isn't offering us some good ideas He wants us to consider. What He is doing is saying, "As you start this process of following me, count the cost! Understand what the ground rules and expectations are before you commit. THIS is where I am going...This is what God expects of you, This is the goal that the HS is going to empower you to reach. Do you want this?"

2. Goal: Understand WHAT It Means To Learn From Jesus. Vs 24

This is an area that we get confused about in our Western Culture all the time. We confuse content with incorporation.

Illus: Because of our educational system, we think that when we know the facts, repeat them, we have learned.

Logic class in bible college: 4 years: Learn the facts: Write them down correctly: We all learned the facts

Six rules of logical syllogisms, 5 major fallacies, 5 minor fallacies, 3 rules for...

Time for first test: Sitting on back row. Professor handed out test. First lady...Burst into tears!

Got the test: USING all that you have learned: Analyze these 50 syllogisms: Which rules break, Fallacies present

Jesus is doing the same thing in the sermon on Mount.

He isn't just interested in us KNOWING what mercy is: BEING MERCIFUL toward those that Hurt us!

If you look at what Jesus teaches, you see Him repeating that pattern over and over in SOM

3 Step Process of Being A Disciple...and Learning To Live A Life Of Overflow! (Equation)

- Content: Hear my words: Listen: *to hear; to give audience to, to understand*
- Conformity: Put into practice: Do: *to have your life conformed: Not by YOUR power, work of HS*
- Character transformation: Become *You become a different person! You are changed!*

For Jesus, Learning hasn't taken place until *Character and Life and Heart have been Transformed...Conformed to Him!*

~Not enough to know: Mercy is when you don't give someone the penalty deserve: **LIVE THAT WAY**

~Not enough to quote: Faith is the substance of things hoped for: **LIVE THAT WAY**

~Not enough to know: You should be salt of world, light on hill: **LIVE THAT WAY**

And here is the Kicker! For Jesus...Its not enough to just have the Right Actions: Must come from the HEART!

3. Attitude: Jesus Didn't Come to Eliminate The OT But To Elevate It! Vs 5:17-20

This is one of the essential understandings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Many people...then and now...misunderstand Jesus intent. He never intended to do away with the Law.

Jesus' aim is moving the actions we incorporate into our lives in serving God into our heart...not just the hands!

We are not to just "ACT" merciful...His intent is that we BECOME a merciful person! Like Him

- Actions are important...we have to get them right! But, we can't stop there...Must come from the heart!
- Many of the Pharisees were spectacular at keeping the LETTER of the Law...But they missed the intent.
- God expects us to get our actions right...but He Elevates the expectation so that it comes from the heart!
- You have heard it said: (OT Law) 6 times: BUT I say!

~Murder ~Adultery ~Divorce ~Oaths ~Revenge ~Love

Every single issue Jesus takes the OT Law...and He elevates the expectation

He isn't just interested in helping us get the action right, He wants us to have it come from the heart!

Illus: 5:21: Murder: Not just don't kill people: Have your heart transformed so you don't hate...That where it comes from!
Love your Neighbor...Hate your enemies...No Love your enemies! Be such a loving person that you Treat them well!

This is why it is so important to have the HS at work within. We CANT live that way on our own!

It is the HS that both empowers us to live this way...and is the ongoing Source of Overflowing Life!

Overflow comes from the Spirit at work within...Welling up in spiritual power to TRANSFORM heart...Change Actions!

4. Reality: Overflowing Life Doesn't Exempt Us FROM Trials...It Empowers Us IN Trials. Vs

One of the false teachings that is prevalent in our western Christian culture today is Overflowing Life means no struggles.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, if you listen to what Jesus is teaching in SOM He makes it clear.

You will have trials. He said not only here...but also later in His ministry.

Jn 16:33 *"In this world you will have trouble...but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!"*

- Notice here:
 - ~Both of the builders in the parable, both wise and foolish, built
 - ~Both of the builders used the same materials
 - ~Both of the builders EXPERIENCED the same trials and tribulations: (The wise man wasn't EXEMPT!)
 - The language is EXACTLY the same in both instances!
 - ~Here is the difference: The wise man had a spiritual resources that the foolish man did not!
 - ~The wise man had been IMPLEMENTING the words of Jesus...Drawing on the HS...Depending on Him
 - ~So when trials come...which they always do...
 - >His foundation and footing were secure
 - >His heart and life were used to drawing on the power of the HS regularly
 - >He had strengthened and developed his faith by learning to trust God
- So he is equipped, ready and empowered to stand in the middle of the storm!
The storm didn't miss him...the storm didn't overcome him.
He was able to overcome the storm!

THAT is the end game for Jesus. He is equipping His followers for a couple of things.

1. To Develop Real Faith...as a testimony to a lost and dying world. (Salt and light thing is about!)

2. To Transform the character of ordinary people to become Children of God...Disciples of Jesus...Transformed Character!

CONCL:

So here are a couple of questions for you today:

1. *Is the foundation of your life built on the person, work and words of Jesus?*

Have you put your faith in Jesus

1. *Are you "hearing" His words?*

Are you regularly feeding your spiritual life on a diet of His truth? (Reading, Sermon, Study, Memory)

2. *Are the Actions coming from the heart? Are you cooperating with the Holy Spirit so that you are changing from within?*

Content + Conformity = Character Transformation

Is your character regularly being transformed so you look a little more like Jesus today than yesterday?

If you need to take some steps in the right direction...NEXT is the place for you!

After the service today we have a light breakfast/lunch set up in the gym.

Designed especially for those who want to emphasize/accelerate their spiritual life in 2019

There you are going to receive 3 opportunities.

a. Read through the NT in a year guide! (Gotta hear the words of Jesus, no better way than that)

b. Ministry Opportunity guide! (If you know...need to start practicing...this is the step)

c. New small group information. (Combines the two: Hearing...Others to Help practice!)

Each week for 6 weeks gather with others at a time convenient to you...to take sermon to next level

Maybe you are saying...my foundation isn't right...I know about Jesus...but I don't KNOW Him

I know about the HS...but I can't honestly say...He is at work in my life

I know the WHAT I should do...but I can't seem to carry it out...Come see me...I want to pray with you Help you