

Brookland Baptist Church
Bible Study
Dr. James A. Jamison, Facilitator

Lecture XVI

June 2, 2021

THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED

Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Will everyone who professes Christ enter? The Lord says, "No. There are some who profess my name only the false professor is a person who uses the Christian's vocabulary, recites his prayers, attends his services, participates in his functions, yet he does not know nor accept the Lord. Jesus was distinguishing between lip service and real discipleship. It is much easier to profess Christianity than to possess it.

Exodus 20:7 (NIV)

⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Psalms 51:6 (NIV)

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Matthew 7:22-23 (NIV)

²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’

²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Jesus exposed those people who sounded religious and did religious deeds but had no personal relationship with him. Not sincere followers who had come to him for salvation, they were masquerading as disciples. These people knew in their hearts that they were false.

Psalms 139:2 (NIV)

² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

Matthew 7:24-25 (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.

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.

Jesus' true followers not only hear His words, but they act on His words, allowing his message to make a difference in their lives. In this teaching, Jesus explained that His true followers, by acting on His words, are like a wise man who built his house on rock. The one who builds "on rock" is a hearing, responding disciple, not a phony, superficial one.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror

²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Matthew 7:26-27 (NIV)

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.”

Matthew 7:28-29 (NIV)

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.

The words "now when Jesus had finished saying these things" signal the end of Jesus' teaching on discipleship and a return to the narrative in Matthew. The Greek word translated "astounded" is a strong word; it could also be translated "astonished" or "amazed." Jesus completely amazed the crowds by his teaching. The Jewish teachers (the scribes) often quoted from well-known rabbis in order to give their words more authority. But Jesus didn't have that need. Because Jesus was the Son of God, he knew exactly what the Scriptures said and meant. He was the ultimate authority. He didn't need to quote anyone because he was the original Word.