



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

Kingdom Principles – Part 8

Matthew 7:24-29

Message #23 of 80 – S1053

Sermon given on July 9, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Kingdom Principles – Part 8

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 7**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Today, we come to the end of the Sermon on the Mount.
- It began with eight attitudes that every Christ-follower should strive to master.
- And then it included 19 principles for how a Christ-follower should live in Christ's Kingdom.
- We will look at the last one this morning.
- This one includes a promise that every believer should embrace and seek to live out in their life.
- Not only for themselves, but for those around them, and, most importantly, for God's glory.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us ears to hear. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **Kingdom Principles – Part 8**
- Jesus wraps up this powerful sermon using a metaphor that would have been very familiar to His hearers.
- **Matthew 7:24-27**
- Last time, Jesus told us to watch out for false prophets, pastors, preachers, and teachers.
- He also warned us about being false believers.
- Just saying you are a Christian, doesn't make you one.
- The consequence of being a false believer is that Jesus will reject you from entering heaven.
- In this text, Jesus gives us a temporal consequence of being a false believer.
- Jesus uses house as a metaphor to illustrate His point.
- To understand the metaphor, we must understand that both the houses are the same.

- From the outside, they both look alike.
 - In this metaphor, Jesus uses houses to describe the spiritual lives of these two men.
 - To bring it into a modern setting, these could be two men that attend our church.
 - We would look at them and say that they are spiritually at about the same place.
 - They say the same kinds of things, they sing the same songs, they put their kids in the Children's Ministry class, they give generously, and they serve faithfully.
 - From everything we can see, they are both heaven-bound believers in Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus describes one of these men as wise and the other as foolish.
 - The root of the word that is translated as 'foolish' is the word we transliterate as 'moron.'
 - The criteria for determining which one you are is found in the phrase 'hears these sayings of Mine and does them.'
 - The foolish man is focused on building a spiritual life that looks Christian but lacks obedience.
 - The wise man builds his spiritual house through obedience to Christ.
 - **Kingdom Principle #19 – Christ-followers obey Christ.**
 - Christ has just laid out 18 other principles.
 - These principles are the foundation Christ-followers are to build their life on.
 - Obedience is not optional for someone who is a Christian.
 - In Luke's rendering of this part of the sermon, he includes this question. **Luke 6:46**
- But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?**
- If Jesus is Lord, He is to be obeyed.
 - Or, said more precisely, since Jesus is Lord, He is to be obeyed!
 - By whom? By everyone, but especially by people who claim Him as their Lord. It is foolish, or moronic, to say and not mean it.
 - 'these sayings of Mine...' – Jesus is not saying that He is speaking on behalf of God – He is speaking as God.

- Jesus speaks as someone who knows the heart and mind of God and the ways, thoughts, needs, cares, desires, and hurts of every single person on earth.
- And He speaks these sayings with the humility of someone who has placed their trust wholly upon God, while at the same time is God.
- It is not always obvious to us as we read Christ's words that He is speaking from and about His deity.
- That was not the case with the religious leaders who heard Him speak.

John 10:31-33

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" ³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

- They heard Jesus' words and interpreted them as though He were speaking as God.
- That would be blasphemy and worthy of stoning but for the fact that Jesus is God.
- As God, He is Lord. And as Lord, He has the absolute right to determine the principles by which His people live.
- When our founding fathers laid out the principles of this new nation 247 years ago, they were based on the God-given unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- The Constitution and Bill of Rights are the foundation this nation was to be built upon.
- There are many, including within the highest offices of our government, who would like to rewrite those principles.
- I am thankful that we have a majority on the Supreme Court that still believes those principles should be protected.
- Very recently, they ruled on several cases regarding Free Speech.
- We should care about Free Speech because our ability to gather like this and share the gospel with others publicly is tied to that principle.
- I still believe the United States of America is the greatest country on earth.
- I believe it would be even better if we all lived according to the principles laid out by the Founding Fathers.

- And it would infinitely better if we all lived by the principles of our Savior-King Christ Jesus.
 - Back to our metaphor – the house is the spiritual life of the two men.
 - The wise man built his house on the rock – bedrock is a better translation.
 - The bedrock of the wise man's house are Jesus' sayings.
 - If you build your spiritual life on the sayings or principles that Jesus lays out in this sermon, as well as all His other sayings, your spiritual life is built on something immovable.
 - The foolish man does not build on the rock, but on sand.
 - Maybe you have experienced this at the beach.
 - If you stand at the edge of the water, maybe ankle-deep.
 - As the waves come and go, the sand beneath your feet is eroded away.
 - And those waves do not need to be very big – little by little the sand moves from under your feet.
 - The wise man and the foolish man have identical houses.
 - And they are both hit by the same things, 'the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house...'
 - Identical houses hit by the same things – two different results.
 - The wise man's house did not fall but the foolish man's house came down with a great fall.
 - When our lives are built on the rock, the sayings of Christ, we will be able to withstand the rain, the floods, and the winds that will come.
 - The rain, floods, and winds come to everyone – believers and unbelievers.
 - Jesus even told us that believers would not be excluded from those things. **John 16:33**
- These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**
- One of the things this teaches us is it is the storm that determines the quality of the construction of our spiritual house.
 - If your house is built upon the rock, you can stand securely during the storm.
 - Storms will come in this life.

- Jesus is telling us that we can stand securely in them if we listen to His words and then put them into practice – if we obey.
- Paul said something like that. **Acts 20:22-24**
And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
- Storms are unavoidable.
- As I write this, our dog Raisin is on hospice.
- She has been a part of our life for a long time and now we must prepare to say goodbye to her.
- The sadness Kelly and I are already feeling is countered by the thankfulness for God allowing her to be a part of our lives.
- We both know that many of you know what this feels like, and we also know that some of you are in storms far more severe than what we are going through.
- We will get through this storm, and then given enough time another storm will come. That is life in a fallen world.
- The storms that come prove the foundation your life is built upon.
- If the storm wrecks you, your foundation is not strong.
- Confess that to God and ask Him to help you strengthen your foundation through His Word and by His Spirit.
- We shouldn't feel condemned when we struggle in the storm.
- God, in his grace, is showing you an area of your life that you can grow in your faith. Thank Him for His grace.
- If you find yourself struggling in the storm, lean back into the arms of your Savior-King Christ Jesus. **Matthew 11:28-30**
Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.
- When you find it hard to walk the path Jesus has led you onto, lean back into His arms and let Him carry you through the storm.
- Chapter seven ends with the response of the people who heard Jesus.
- **Matthew 7:28-29**

- Jesus is our bedrock, and the attitudes and principles found in the Sermon on the Mount are the foundation of the life that can withstand any storm that might come and experience the abundant life Jesus came to give us through faith in Him.
- We are going to partake in Communion this morning.
- As we do, let's be thankful that Jesus is walking with us in our storm and that He will get us through it to the peace He promised us.
- If you are not in a storm right now – praise Jesus and be thankful.
- And then ask Him if there is anyone around you who you can help through their storm. Let's pray!