

No Middle Ground

Matthew 7:13-29 - NCBC, December 8, 2019

Main Point: **True righteousness is marked by the heart's obedience to King Jesus.**

- Start by entering God's kingdom through repentance and faith (13-14)
 - Repent from sin's self-reliance
 - Believe in God's good gift of Jesus
- Grow by hearing and doing God's word (15-23)
 - Reject the deceptive lies of works-religion
 - Submit your heart to the Spirit's control
- Trust your Heavenly Father for your eternal security (24-27)
 - Refuse to build your life on this world's ideas
 - Build your life on the words of God

Application: **Choose King Jesus as your Savior and Lord!**

Opening Announcements:

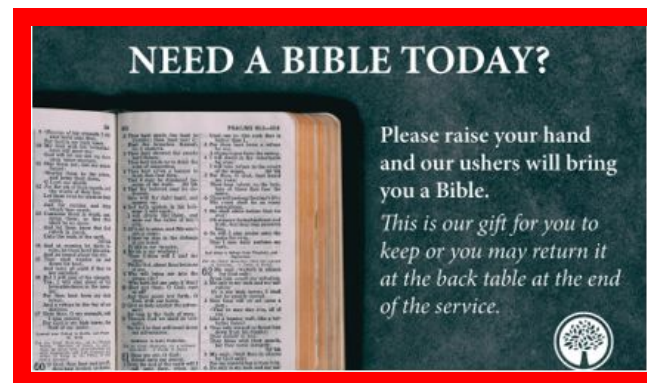
- **Update on our search for Associate Pastor of Music and Worship:** Please continue praying as our search team continues diligent recruiting efforts. Jan 26th like-minded pastor Jordan Kauflin will visit share with our volunteers and church family what it looks like to serve in a similar role in his church.

<<He Who is Mighty>>



Take heart dear weary and broken soul! The Almighty has sent His Son to save our souls, conquer death's sting, and remove our shame! There is no God like Jesus!

Let's continue to magnify Jesus now by opening our Bibles to the end of **Matthew chapter 7.**



If you do not have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand. It would be our joy to give you a copy of God's life-giving Words this morning.

As we draw closer to celebrating Christ's birth, thanks for how you continue to share God's love and care for those grieving or hurting around you. The holidays can be especially difficult for many. Grief can be profound at Christmas. The lack of money can overshadow Christmas' joy with stress or guilt. Busy schedules or expectations from others can easily drown out the real meaning of the season.

And that's why God has planted each of us right where we are...that by His grace, we may be His comforting hand on another's shoulder. That by His Spirit, we may be His life-giving messengers to the broken. That we may give hope to the hopeless.

Yes, by God's doing, we are different than the world around us! Sure we experience many similar pressures. But God has forgiven our sins, adopted us as His children, and granted us an inheritance with Him forever!! We must not forget our grace-given identity in Christ this Christmas! Loved people love! Forgiven people forgive! Saved people share! God has freely given us a message of hope and peace for people from every tribe and nation.

So be attentive to each person around you this Christmas. It's likely that one or more of them are hurting and open to any help or hope that you can offer.

And if you desire further biblical training on how to faithfully care for another's soul, our biblical counseling ministry is eager to equip you! There's a wonderful week-long training conference coming up in February that we'd love to send you to, if your schedule allows.

You can find more information in today's Worship folder. But even if you can't attend a week-long conference, don't hesitate to reach out to the church office anytime to get equipped to give help and hope to those struggling with life's trials and temptations. In the middle of the disorienting lights and glitter of Christmas – God is working through us church! What a joy to be part of God's kingdom at this time in history!



Now this morning we conclude our study of the Sermon on the Mount by considering **Matthew 7, versus 13-29**.

Now I'm giving an extended review before we read the Scripture today. After all, this is the conclusion to Jesus' sermon. Here Jesus demands a verdict.

Outline of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount	
I. Attention Getter.....	5:1-16
II. Main Point	5:17-7:12
<i>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.</i>	
III. Call for Response.....	7:13-29

BEHOLD
Jesus

He's calling for a response! You remember that this sermon got our attention with the Beatitudes back in **chapter 5**, and then the main point of the sermon was argued from **chapter 5 verse 17** all the way through **chapter 7 verse 12**. In order to enter the kingdom of heaven, your righteousness must be superior to the scribes' and Pharisees'.

Now then, after making His point, Jesus calls for a decision: which kind of righteousness will you choose?

Will you pursue the external religion of the scribes, or the internal relationship of love for God Himself? Will you seek righteousness by human law-keeping... or will you humbly receive supernatural righteousness from God?

I spent considerable time thinking about the flow of Jesus' argument throughout His sermon. So bear with me as summarize what we've learned so far to help us understand the finale that we are about to read together.

Outline of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount		
The heart of righteousness glorifies God	5:1-16	
Main Point 5:20	Believing our Heavenly Father perfects our love	5:17-48
	Believing our Heavenly Father rewards our worship	6:1-18
	Believing our Heavenly Father provides our needs	6:19-34
	Believing our Heavenly Father gives good gifts	7:1-12
The heart of righteousness obeys God	7:13-29	

Jesus opens the sermon teaching that God blesses or accepts those whose hearts are righteous. His shocking focus is on internal character of the heart – not religious law-keeping. In other words, you could summarize the first **16 verses** as **The heart of righteousness glorifies God**. It's what's on the inside of the Christian that truly makes God's attributes shine in this world!

Then in the main body of the sermon, Jesus argues how His disciples relate to the law and the prophets.¹ When you rightly understand God's self-revelation in the law and the prophets – it will transform your view of God Himself and your relationship with Him. True righteousness is not about external law-keeping – it's about a personal relationship with your Heavenly Father!

Legalistic scribes and Pharisees view God has a miserly judge to be negotiated with. But the Sermon on the Mount emphasizes God as our Heavenly Father! In **chapter 5, 17-48**, Jesus uses 6 examples from legalistic tradition to illustrate how keeping man-made rules misses

¹ This emphasis is seen by the fact that the phrase “the law and the prophets” bookends the main body of Jesus’ sermon. C.f. 5:17 and 7:12.

the entire point of God's law. God's law is only fulfilled when hearts sincerely love enemies as God has first loved us.² True righteousness **believes only our heavenly Father can perfect our love!**³

Then in the first half of **chapter 6**, Jesus argues that the heart of righteousness **believes that our heavenly Father** – not other people – **rewards our worship**. True righteousness doesn't seek human recognition when we give, or pray, or fast. After all, as the last half of **chapter 6** argues, the heart of righteousness **believes our Heavenly Father provides our needs**. The righteous heart doesn't worry about what to eat, or drink or wear. Righteousness believes our Father will provide, and therefore is singularly devoted to treasuring God and His kingdom without double-minded anxiety in life.

Finally then, as Pastor Shaun taught last week, the first half of **chapter 7** emphasizes how righteousness **believes our Heavenly Father gives good gifts**. Contrary to self-righteous legalism, God does not deceive us. Instead He is eager to answer when we call, and He always gives good gifts.

So please notice ...that according to the Sermon on the Mount... true righteousness is more about faith than performance! True righteousness is more about what you believe about the character of God than about what religious laws you keep! It is the heart – the inward beliefs of a person – that truly glorifies God and puts us in right relationship with the law and the prophets.

² 1 John 4:19

³ Matthew 5:48

Legalists fundamentally hate God. They refuse to trust His character alone for their security. And thus they will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus preaches so that we may understand: the righteous heart glorifies God and obeys God. **The heart of righteousness obeys God**. You can't glorify God if you don't heed His words.

But contrary to the scribe's legalistic righteousness ... this isn't trying to earn righteousness through obedience. The obedience spoken about in Jesus' conclusion flows out of the heart that already believes God is a Heavenly Father who perfects love, rewards worship, provides needs, and always gives good gifts!

You see loved ones, **Matthew 7 verses 13-29** is a piercing call for the obedience of faith!⁴ That obedience which comes from, or is powered by, my faith in *who God is* as my Heavenly Father.



True righteousness is marked by the heart's obedience to

⁴ Romans 1:5; 16:26

King Jesus, because after all, the heart of righteousness loves God and knows Him personally as my Father!

So as we read through Jesus' conclusion now, you'll notice more than 10 different contrasts that Jesus makes. He uses a variety of illustrations to make the same point – there's no middle ground! You either possess the righteousness of God, or you possess the righteousness of the scribes. You either love God from your heart, or you are trying to bargain with God through your religion. You will either enter the kingdom of heaven, or you will be cast away in a great fall.

As we read this text together now, ask yourself, "Where do I place my faith for my eternal standing with God?"

Please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word. From the English Standard Translation, I'll begin reading from **Matthew 7:13**:

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. ¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." ²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

This is God's Word. Please be seated.

Let's Pray.

When our family lived in Los Angeles, we had two trees that stood against the fence in our backyard.



Tree number 1 on the left didn't have any foliage to speak of. But tree number 2 on the right seemed to overflow with greenery.

And so whenever someone visited our home, I'd have them look out our back window, and then I'd ask, "Which tree is more healthy?"

Of course my friends could sense I was setting them up, so we'd walk outside together to get a closer look.



And sure enough, with a simple change of perspective, the truth would become obvious! Tree number 2 was

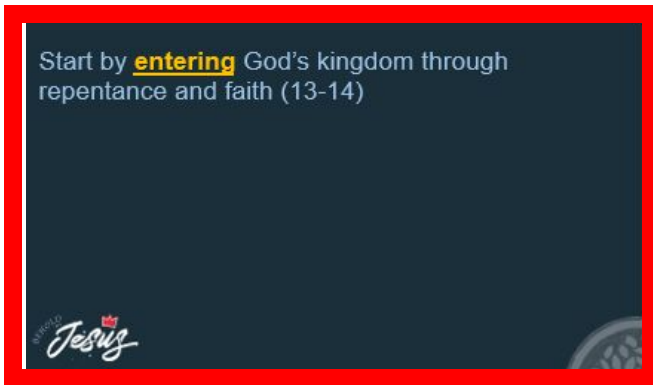
simply a dead stump that had been taken over by our neighbors flowering vine! Tree #2 was dead – although it gave a strong appearance of life from a distance...its profession did not match reality. And a close examination of Tree #1 would discover some small buds ...signs of new life ready to spring forth at the right season. So yes, surprisingly Tree #1 was actually more healthy!!

Now please listen. As we approach God's Word this morning – we must humbly recognize that God has a different perspective on us than everyone else. We look at outward appearances...but God looks at the heart!⁵

And that's important since today's Scripture warns that sometimes legalists and true disciples look the same on the outside! Both can look like sheep. Both can profess to be Christians. Both can achieve many mighty works in Jesus' name!

The difference between false professors and true possessors of righteousness comes down to the obedience of faith... the heart's obedience to King Jesus that is powered by love for God Himself. This kind of righteousness only begins through personal repentance and faith. As Jesus teaches in **verses 13-14**,

⁵ 1 Samuel 16:7



You start by **entering** God's kingdom through repentance and faith.

Dear friends – I wish to be very clear in my preaching. Today is a day of salvation! You can enter God's kingdom today, and leave with your sins forgiven, and your life made new with Christ!! But there's only one way to enter God's kingdom... there's no middle ground. You can only enter God's kingdom by repentance and faith!

Consider the 2 different ways people try to enter God's kingdom:

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (13-14)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
Narrow Gate	Wide Gate
Hard Way	Easy Way
Found by Few	Found by Many
Leads to Life	Leads to Destruction

Verses 13-14 read,

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

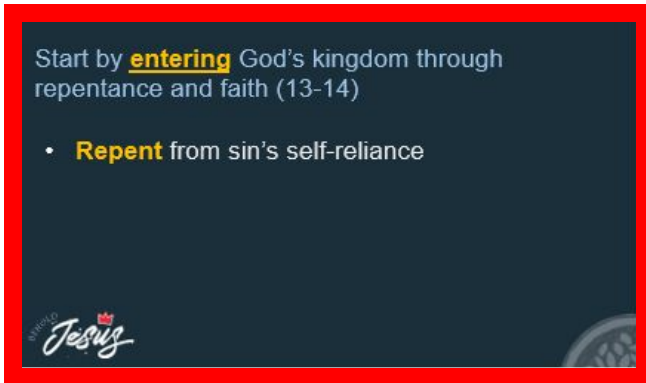
You see Jesus concludes His sermon by illustrating there are only two kinds of righteousness. Righteousness by Divine Accomplishment, and Righteousness by Human Achievement. They can't be more opposite in their approaches or end result:

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (13-14)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
Narrow Gate	Wide Gate
Hard Way	Easy Way
Found by Few	Found by Many
Leads to Life	Leads to Destruction

Yes human law-keeping is popular – it's practiced by many. It's quite easy to justify your righteousness simply by comparing yourself with others more sinful than you. And righteousness by human effort is wide – for it doesn't cost anything! In fact, it bolsters self-love and pride.

But listen carefully ... for if you choose to content yourself with the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees... that way **leads to eternal destruction**.

There is a way that **leads to eternal life**, but it is narrow and restrictive. You can only enter if you,



Repent from sin's self-reliance

You must receive poverty of spirit.⁶ You must mourn your sin against God.⁷ You must deny yourself and pick up your cross,⁸ and follow Christ in the worship of humble submission.

Listen, if your Christianity has never cost you your self-righteousness, then you are not saved. You are on the wide road with lots of other false professors.

At its core, repentance crucifies self-righteousness and self-reliance. You cannot enter the kingdom of heaven until you agree that God's ways are better than your ways, and forsake all attempts at self-justification.

⁶ Matthew 5:3

⁷ Matthew 5:4

⁸ Matthew 5:5; c.f. Luke 9:23-24

You only enter God's kingdom through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on your behalf.

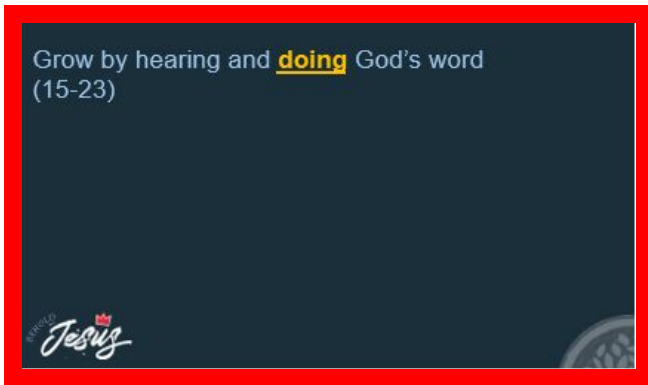


You believe in God's good gift of Jesus. Heaven's righteousness comes by faith alone in Christ alone. Jesus died on the cross for your justification! Jesus rose from the dead to give you newness of life! Jesus ascended to the Father's throne to guarantee your faithfulness until the end! Salvation is all by God's doing as a free gift for you!!

Religious legalism only leads to destruction. Only repentance from sin, and saving faith in the work of Jesus in your place will lead you to eternal life!

So which path will you choose today? Remember, Jesus is preaching this sermon to religious people. Will you repent of your self-righteousness and believe in Christ alone?

Now **verses 15-23** illustrate how a disciple grows in righteousness once in God's kingdom.



You grow by hearing and **doing** God's word.

Righteous actions – or righteous fruit – only grow out of a heart controlled by God's Spirit. Again, note the stark contrast between the two kinds of righteousness in **verses 15-23**,

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (15-23)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
[True Prophets – i.e. Jesus]	False Prophets – i.e. Scribes
[A Sheep Inside]	A Wolf Inside
Healthy Tree	Diseased Tree
Good Fruit	Bad Fruit
Does Father's Will	Workers of Lawlessness
[Cultivated & Preserved]	Cut down & Thrown into Fire
Enter the Kingdom of Heaven	Depart from Me

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

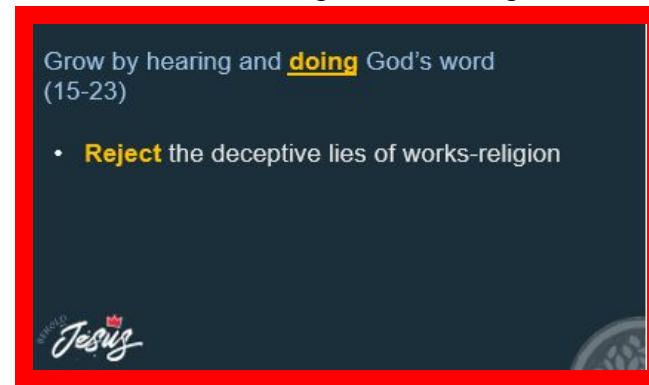
A prophet here means someone speaking on behalf of God. It's not talking about foretelling the future; rather speaking God's words. And Jesus says, you must not

listen to the scribes and the Pharisees – they are false teachers of works-righteousness. They claim to be my children... they appear to be religious on the outside...but inwardly – what are their hearts like? They have the true nature of a wolf. A predator. A dangerous enemy!! Beware of any teaching that focuses on human achievement as the source of your righteousness!!

Now **verse 16**,

You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

In other words, true righteousness grows when you,



Reject the deceptive lies of works-religion. Don't be fooled by superficial outward appearances of popularity, or wealth, or miraculous signs. False teachers claim to have the authority of God behind them... but in fact they are your mortal enemies!!

Did you notice that repeated phrase in **verse 16** and **verse 20**? *You will recognize them by their fruits.*

In other words, the false teaching of works-religion does not have the power to change person's heart from the inside out.⁹ Over time, legalists will only grow more and more self-righteous, self-reliant, and self-loving.

Only the gospel of righteousness by Divine Accomplishment has the power to free a person's heart from slavery to sin's self-worship!¹⁰ The effects of a true prophet is that his followers grow in the fruit of the Spirit – especially supernatural love!¹¹ So humbly examine your own life: are you listening to teachers of the true Gospel? Are there growing evidences of spiritual change in your life, brought about by your faith in what you've been taught?

Let's pick up the Scripture in **verse 21**, as Jesus continues to contrast two kinds of righteousness:

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (15-23)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
[True Prophets – i.e. Jesus]	False Prophets – i.e. Scribes
[A Sheep Inside]	A Wolf Inside
Healthy Tree	Diseased Tree
Good Fruit	Bad Fruit
Does Father's Will	Workers of Lawlessness
[Cultivated & Preserved]	Cut down & Thrown into Fire
Enter the Kingdom of Heaven	Depart from Me

Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day – speaking of the final judgment day – many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”

Verses 21-23 may be the most shocking paragraph in all of Scripture. Jesus says your words and your works aren't enough to affirm your righteousness. You may have signed a card, walked an aisle, or prayed a prayer. You can call yourself a Christian, teach the Bible in the name of Jesus, cast out demons in the name of Jesus, and do amazing ministry in the name of Jesus...and still not be qualified for the kingdom of heaven.

⁹ Colossians 2:20-23; Romans 10:3-4

¹⁰ John 8:32; Galatians 5:1

¹¹ Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 13:8-10

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (15-23)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
[True Prophets – i.e. Jesus]	False Prophets – i.e. Scribes
[A Sheep Inside]	A Wolf Inside
Healthy Tree	Diseased Tree
Good Fruit	Bad Fruit
Does Father's Will	Workers of Lawlessness
[Cultivated & Preserved]	Cut down & Thrown into Fire
Enter the Kingdom of Heaven	Depart from Me

Completely different outcomes...for a completely different relationship with God's word.


Verse 21 contrasts the *one who does the will of my Father*¹² with *workers of lawlessness* in **verse 23**.

Remember, both groups preached and accomplished powerful ministry in the name of Jesus. The only difference was that the people in **verse 21** were doing the Father's will out of a Spirit-born love for Him, while those in **verse 23** were doing Christian ministry in order to prove that they were good enough for God.

O church, these verses cause me to tremble! Does God know you personally? Is your faith in God's good character, or in your own doctrinal understanding and ministry faithfulness?

Grow by hearing and **doing** God's word (15-23)

- **Reject** the deceptive lies of works-religion
- **Submit** your heart to the Spirit's control

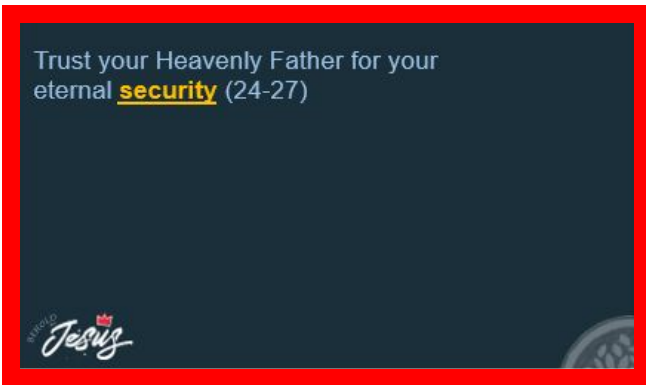


Jesus is calling religious people to truly **Submit their hearts to the Spirit's control**. Only the fruit of the Spirit can satisfy God's law. Only the work of Christ in us is sufficient to make us truly righteous.

Your religious words and ministry are not enough. You must joyfully love God from your heart, and worship Him with the obedience that comes from faith to enter the kingdom of heaven.

You can only enter God's kingdom through repentance and faith. You will only grow by hearing and doing God's Word out of your love for Christ. And finally, **verses 24-27** illustrate how the righteous life ends.

¹² Notice Jesus here refers to God as "my Father." This is a clear expression of Jesus' own deity!!



Righteousness ends by **trusting your Heavenly Father for your eternal security**. You must not trust yourself for your eternal standing with God. Put your confidence in the character of our Heavenly Father for your eternal security.

Again note the contrast,

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (24-27)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
Obeys God's Word	Does NOT Obey God's Word
Wise	Foolish
Builds Life on the Rock	Builds Life on the Sand
Does Not Fall	Great Fall

as Jesus continues in **verse 24**,

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone

who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

The rock here refers to *these words of mine*. In other words, the heart of true righteousness truly believes what God has said and acts accordingly. God-given righteousness builds its life on the foundation of God's words.

By the way – did you notice what was the same between the wise and foolish builder in Jesus' closing illustration? They both heard God's Word – perhaps could even quote it! And they both experienced the same storms of life – even the same standard of judgment at the end of time.

Only 2 Kinds of Righteousness (24-27)	
Divine Accomplishment	Human Achievement
Obeys God's Word	Does NOT Obey God's Word
Wise	Foolish
Builds Life on the Rock	Builds Life on the Sand
Does Not Fall	Great Fall

But the difference was in the final outcome of their lives. The end of the scribe's kind of righteousness is a very great and surprising fall! For their entire life was built on the shifting sands of human works-righteousness.

Loved ones, listen and hear King Jesus' conclusion to His Sermon on the Mount:



You must choose King Jesus as your Savior and Lord!

Verse 28 says,

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Authority is a huge theme throughout Matthew's gospel. Behold Jesus as King!! But don't just be amazed at how different He is from all other forms of human religion.

You must go on to repentance! You must believe that Jesus is truly God, and that He is truly good! You must choose the narrow path of life! You must choose to submit to Jesus as your teacher of righteousness!!

There is no middle ground. There is only one way into the kingdom of heaven, while there are many wrong paths to destruction and a great fall. Choose life today! Surrender your life to the words of our Heavenly King –

Page **13a** of 15

for it is your faith's obedience to His words that give proof that you have received true righteousness!

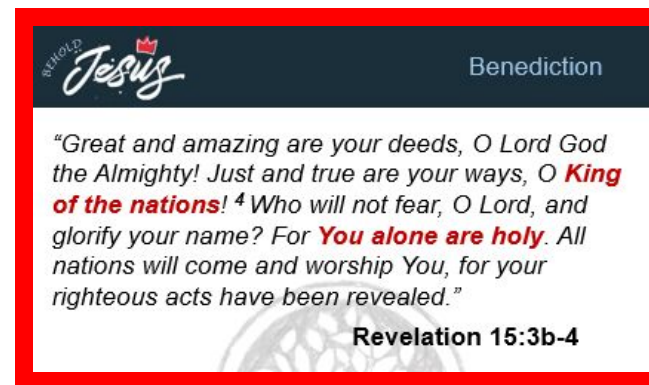


Come today, and know the joy of righteousness by faith alone in Christ alone!!

Let's pray.

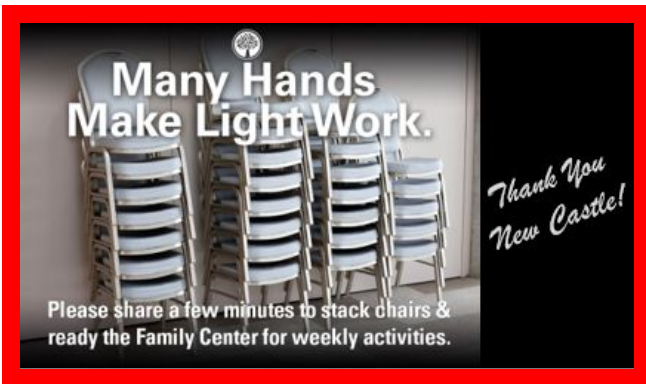
<<In Christ Alone>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Page **13b** of 15

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”
Revelation 15:3b-4



After 2nd Service Only

Recommended Resources on No Middle Ground:

- Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- Joshua 24:13-15
- 1 Kings 18:21
- Jeremiah 21:8
- Matthew 25:11-12, 41-44
- Luke 6:43-49
- Romans 2:6-10, 13; 9:32
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 16:22
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- James 1:22-25; 2:17-18, 20, 26
- 1 John 2:3-6; 3:4-10, 14

- *“My Greatest Problem”* NCBC sermon on Luke 6:43-45 preached 11/26/17
- *“Pledging Allegiance”* NCBC sermon on Luke 6:46-49 preached 12/10/17

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/letter-to-a-friend-concerning-the-so-called-lordship-salvation>
- <https://www.faithlafayette.org/church/locations/west-campus/heart-of-change>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA145/what-kind-of-things-do-and-do-not-prove-the-genuineness-of-saving-faith>

- *The Gospel According to Jesus*, John MacArthur
- *Follow Me*, David Platt
- *Gospel Treason*, Brad Bigney

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Matthew 7:13-14. Jesus commonly questioned people’s false professions, and refused to give security to any willfully disobedient sinner (C.f. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 John 3:4-10). What should this teach us about the nature of genuine saving faith? (c.f. recommended QA145 article above)
2. Read Romans 10:9, 13; 2 Corinthians 4:5; and Colossians 2:6. Is it possible to receive Christ as Savior but not as Lord? Why not? Consult the recommended article above on Lordship Salvation for biblical support as needed.
3. Read James 1:22-25. Where are you most likely to agree with God (hearing His words), but fail to obey Him (doing His words)? Confess this to one another, and pray together for growth in the kind of obedience that comes from faith in Christ (the obedience of faith).
4. Read Matthew 7:21-23. What most surprises you from this teaching? What emotions do you experience from this teaching? How does this teaching compare with 2 Corinthians 13:5-10? What can be the only object of a believer’s full assurance of faith? (c.f. Hebrews 10:19-23, 39)
5. Skim the entire sermon in Matthew 5-7. What key themes are present in this sermon? How would you summarize the flow of Jesus’ argument? What is taught about God and salvation? Faith and discipleship? What is your response?