

The Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5–7

A Christian’s Commitment – 7:21-27

After completing His description of the Christian character, Jesus spoke of genuine commitment.

A VERBAL PROFESSION OF FAITH IS NOT ENOUGH (7:21-23)

7:21 Jesus is the Lord ^{John 13:13}; however, calling out to God ^{Hosea 8:2-3} or Jesus is not enough to be saved.

In these three verses, Jesus pronounces an indication of and a requirement for genuine salvation (i.e., worthy to enter the “kingdom of heaven” [*basileia*: royal dominion], which refers to being close to God/Jesus ^{Mark 1:15, Luke 9:27, 11:20} or the Holy Spirit ^{Luke 17:21}, but ultimately fulfilled ^{Luke 22:16} when in heaven ^{Mark 10:15, 23-25, Luke 14:15}). According to Jesus, a truly redeemed person will be obedient to “the will of [God]” by being “slaves” ^{Romans 6:16-18} of active obedience to Jesus ^{John 8:51, 14:15}.

7:22 The “day” mentioned by Jesus is the day of judgement ^{Matthew 10:15} God requires every person to face after their death ^{Hebrews 9:27}. God has determined there will be two types of judgements: His followers will stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ ^{Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10} and those who reject God’s offer of redemption will face the Great White Throne Judgement ^{Revelation 20:11-15}. A person can perform miracles & exorcise demons, but still not be saved ^{Luke 10:17-20; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3}.

7:23 “I never knew you.” is a convicting statement by Jesus emphasizing the necessity of relationship for salvation ^{Matthew 25:1-12, Luke 13:25}. And, with no relationship/salvation and there being only two eternal choices, Jesus command “Away from me, you evildoers.” is inevitable ^{Psalms 6:8a, Matthew 25:41, Luke 13:27}.

INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD & HIS WORD IS NOT ENOUGH (7:24-27)

7:24 People who hear the truth of God’s Word and are obedient to apply it to their lives ^{Romans 2:13} (“Do not merely listen to the word...Do what it says.” ^{James 1:22-25}) are wise (*phronimos*: prudent, sensible) ^{Proverbs 3:19, 13:14}. In his first letter, John stated the same concept this way: Christians should “not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” ^{1 John 3:18}.

7:25 The Shepherd Jesus is the “Rock of Israel” ^{Genesis 49:22-26}, the only true “Rock” ^{Psalms 18:2, Daniel 2:31-45}, the spiritual “Rock” ^{1 Corinthians 10:1-4} and the “Rock” of the Church ^{Matthew 16:16-20}. There is only one

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foundation for life that will remain solid and true: the Rock Jesus ^{1 Corinthians 3:10-11}, and He will always provide peace, strength and protection for those who faithfully trust in Him ^{John 16:33}.

7:26 Those who hear Jesus’ truth and do not act on it are fools ^{Proverbs 14:7}, because they made up their minds to reject the existence of God ^{Psalms 14:1a}, embrace the worldly ^{Matthew 23:17} and while they have eyes/ears, they choose not to see/hear the truth ^{Jeremiah 5:21}. As a result, fools build their lives on “seen” & “temporary” things instead of the things that are “unseen” & “eternal” ^{2 Corinthians 4:18}.

7:27 The individual particles of sand represent all of the earthly things to build a life on, and seem solid enough, but collectively they do not hold together under stress. Everyone’s life has times of facing conditions of “wind” and “rain”, but their life foundations determine how the trials are handled ^{v.25,27}.

Conclusion – 7:28-29

7:28-29 When Jesus finished (*teleioo*: state of perfect completion) teaching (*didache*: art of teaching), the crowds were amazed ^{Matthew 22:33, Mark 6:1-2, 11:18, Luke 4:32, John 7:46}, because the “teachers of the law” taught them from the authority of the Scriptures (e.g., they would say: “Moses said...” or “By the authority of the Prophet Jeremiah, I say...”), but Jesus taught convincingly from His own authority.

Remember: Salvation is defined as “a faith that leads to obedience” and is granted by God when a person has fully embraced all three of the following truths about who Jesus Christ was, is and will always be: ***KAT: Knowledge, Acceptance and Trust.***

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