

July 9/23 - Matthew 7:24-29 "Choose this Day Your Foundation"

We have come to the end of the sermon on the mount. What have we heard? How then shall we live? One of the ways we can reflect on whether or not we are hearing Jesus rightly is to ask – am I responding the way those first listeners responded?

Read Matthew 7:24-29

The first listeners were astonished, and the more and more they reflected on Jesus' words the more astonished they became. They were astonished because Jesus spoke with authority (Greek Exousia – out of being). This means that Jesus' words resonated with the way life was meant to be lived, ringing with the really real, congruent with the way humanity was meant to live.

1. Does this response resonate with what was going on in your heart as you listened to the sermon unpacked these past months? Why or why not?

Read Proverbs 10:25 as you reflect on vs. 24-27. This image is taken right out of the book of proverbs. The wise are those who live in step with the fabric that God has knit into creation. The foolish are those who live out of step with the fabric that God has knit into creation. As a result the wise flourish and the foolish flounder.

2. It is often assumed that Jesus in speaking of the wise and the foolish is comparing those who root their lives in Jesus, and those who do not. If that were the case however, we should see evidence of that in the sermon itself, but we do not. Who then is Jesus comparing in the sermon that finds it's final expression here?

Read Matthew 7:21-23 How do these verses confirm your reflections on the sermon as a whole as to who Jesus is comparing in the wise and foolish builders?

3. What conclusions can we draw given that the storm hits the house of both the wise and the foolish builder? How is it that a storm exposes our foundation?

In the sermon Tim gave an illustration to bring the image to life. If in the face of hurt you respond out of step with the fabric that God has knit into humanity, the fabric of love and forgiveness and instead take the path of the retaliation anger and bitterness you become less than human.

4. Pick a couple of Jesus' teachings in the sermon to compare what life looks like when you live in step with Jesus' words vs. out of step with his words. Discuss.
5. This last image comes down to a question of functional trust. Do we trust Jesus enough to do what he asks us to do. The crisis of the sermon on the mount comes down to who is this Jesus. How do we answer that question from vs. 21-29? How does who he is, help us to do what he is asking us to do?