

Bible Study
3/22/15
Matthew 7:15-29

INTRO: Charades - Play a couple rounds of charades. Give 2-3 people something that they need to act out, the group needs to guess who/what they are.

Review - What did Jesus just finish talking about before this conclusion to His sermon? (Judging, Ask.Seek.Knock, Narrow Way)

Today's Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount. And he gives 3 final points that are all about "identity". True Identity before God, not men. We will see a common theme of obedience to God woven in each of these, but there are 3 distinct ideas that we can evaluate OUR lives by as we consider OUR identity before God. Let's read!

Beware of False Prophets / Tree is known by it's Fruit

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Q1: Here Jesus is warning his listener. What is He warning about?

Q2: What does Jesus teach about IDENTIFYING false teachers?

A1: How does this apply to our lives?

Knowing & Being Known

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Q3: What is the situation described here? What happens?

Q4: What does Jesus teach here about IDENTIFYING children of God?

A2: How does this apply to our lives?

Building on Rock or Sand

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Q5: Jesus describes 2 reactions to His teaching: obedience & disobedience. What results are described for both reactions to His word.

Q6: What does Jesus teach here about IDENTIFYING wisdom vs foolishness?

A3: How does this apply to our lives?

POSTLOGUE:

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.