

Neighborhood Life Group Guide

Matthew: Two Foundations
Pastor Mike Bickley
Matthew 7:24-29
March 25, 2018



Prayer: Pray for friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family you could invite to **Easter next Sunday!!!**

Sermon Series Review: Take some time to discuss your biggest takeaways from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Topics we've explored in our church's sermon series include:

The Beatitudes	Divorce	Judgment
The Lord's Prayer	Retaliation	Two Ways
The Golden Rule	Oaths	Two Trees
Being Salt & Light	Generosity	Two Destinations
Anger	Fasting	Two Foundations
Lust	Anxiety	Jesus' Authority

Read: Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

Matthew 7:24-29

Two Foundations

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."

Authority of Jesus

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.

Discussion Questions

1. After reading Matthew 7:24-29, share some observations from the verses you've just read or take-aways from this week's sermon?

2. In Matthew 7:24, Jesus tells us the importance of *hearing* his words and *doing* his words. His half-brother James, the son of Joseph and Mary, says something similar in James 2:14-17...

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- In your own words, describe what dead faith might look like in people today who say they are Christians but don't live like they are Christians.

- Have you seen yourself grow in *doing* Jesus' words throughout this sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount? If so, how?

3. In life we experience sunny seasons and stormy seasons. When stormy seasons come, Matthew 7:24-27 says hearing and doing Jesus' words will dramatically impact us.

- Think about stormy seasons in your life. How has hearing and doing Jesus' words helped you in the past?

- How has hearing and *not* doing Jesus' words led you into trouble?

4. Think about times in your life where you've had to listen to teachers, leaders, or public speakers.

- What is the difference between your experience listening to someone who teaches with authority and someone who does not?

- Why do you think "the crowds were astonished at [Jesus'] teaching" in Matthew 7:28?

5. What helps you to live each day with Jesus as your number one authority?

6. What other authorities are there in this world that can distract us from doing God's will?

7. What is one thing you want to remember from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)?

Personal Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?

- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?

- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?

- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?

- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

Prayer: After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.