**Part 1 in The Sermon on the Mount - Hear and Live – Matthew 7:24-29**

*Jesus fully expects that the sermon is something to be listened to and obeyed.*

He tells a story, to drive home the point - Matthew 7:24–29

Does Jesus want us to act on his message? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Can you? Can you live out the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Today’s message is all about encouraging a positive response to the Sermon and embracing this as a way of life for us as a church and Christians.

**The Purpose of the Sermon on the Mount:** The New reality of the Kingdom is the Gospel Jesus preaches. We should see the Sermon on the Mount as a filling out of what it means to live this new reality. It answers the question, ***how do we live as Kingdom people***? Matthew 4:17

**To become a disciple of Jesus is to learn to see and accept the world as God’s world.**

-**Willful Rebellion**: The Bible describes foolishness as saying there is no God. And for Jesus, foolishness would also be considered hearing these words of his, and not acting upon them. Willful rebellion is a rejection that this is God’s World. If it’s not God’s world, than he doesn’t have a place to tell us how to live.

-If it is God’s World, which **we affirm that it IS!** If that’s true, then God has every right, and every reason to **show us how to live in it truly and beautifully**. Jesus presents his disciples with the opportunity to willfully obey. To make the wise decision, to repent and live faithfully. **Willfully obeying, is hearing the message of the Kingdom of God, and embracing this as the new reality in which you live. Jesus has the authority, and speaks with this authority. Will we embrace this as true and respond accordingly*?***

***Can we trust that Jesus knows what he is talking about***

Talk about me being a mountain guide.

We’d be lost and eaten by bears in no time.

**VIDEO**

I stayed at a holiday inn last night – show the commercial where the guy is seemingly working for nuclear reactor

If we affirm that Genesis 1 and 2 is true, than we also need to affirm that God knows something about how it is to be run. If Jesus is the king of his Kingdom, than he has a place to tell us what how things should be run as well.

The Sermon on the Mount is an invitation for us to stop with the arrogance of thinking we know what we are doing, and embracing that it’s God world, and he knows how it functions best.

Jesus’ illustration is that we have all the materials to make a nice home, and we build it on the wrong foundation. ***We build a life that can’t stand, when we don’t listen to the one who created life***.

So he invites us to build our lives on his teaching, and it will stand. No matter how bad the storm, it will still stand.

Will you build your life on this Sermon, that points to the new reality in the kingdom of God?

***Jesus didn’t stay in a holiday inn, he’s seated at the right hand of God.***

*The availability of the kingdom and the relationship of the church is this; We live as people who embrace, display and proclaim the kingdom of God.*

**A Sermon for the Ordinary, every day.** The Sermon is lofty in its theology, but it is incredibly practical. The situations Jesus presents in the sermon ***are not crazy scenarios that could never happen***. (*When we read Leviticus, it’s difficult to imagine a lot of the text as practical scenarios for us. There are lessons to be learned, for sure, but it takes a lot of work.)*

They are things that happen every single day, multiple times a day. Have you been angry or worried? Have you wondered how to give generously or how to pray? Have you wanted to call your sibling an idiot? Jesus covers all of it!

-**The Sermon is Jesus casting a vision to be lived, a manifesto of the Kingdom of God.** What he presents for his followers is a challenge to **become a visible alternative to the world**. How we go through the ordinary, will be extraordinary, if we embrace the teaching of Jesus Christ. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus’ depiction of citizens who embrace this Good News of the Kingdom of God and want to put it on display in their lives.

**Enjoy the beautiful life God gives us.** We want to live out this kingdom manifesto, not to earn our way into heaven. Not to make God happy. Not to try and earn our way into right standing with God. We want to embrace this teaching of Jesus, **because it is truly, genuinely, the very best way to live and gives the greatest glory to God. Do you believe that**? Jesus’ sermon is presenting the narrow and good way. The good and beautiful way of God’s Kingdom. Jesus is presenting a good and beautiful life filled with joy and blessing, far beyond anything the world can offer.

**-Christians believe that all people can live the way Jesus would have us live.**

***-Are you using this time of God’s patience to live as Jesus calls us to?***

***The alternative is to think, there’s no way I can live that way. I will use the time of God’s patience to live as I have always lived. Why change? Why embrace the life Jesus calls me towards, when I can simply be forgiven?***

***Which brings us to the key to Discipleship -***

**-The key for disciples to live out the Sermon is this, recognizing our sinfulnes**s. When we acknowledge our sin, we are able to embody, through community, the life of forgiveness.

- There is no other way to the truth than the call to follow Jesus. **Only the Son of God has the authority to ask for our lives, and that is the authority behind every word of the Sermon on the Mount**. (Stanley Hauerwas)

BASKETBALL GAME

*-* ***It’s not about our failure****, its about the pursuit. It’s about living out a far loftier vision for our lives than resentful, worried, vengeful lives we so often succumb to. The lofty vision of Jesus inspires us to set our sights higher on what it means to live and embrace the kingdom of God.*

- **we won’t live it perfectly**, this we know for certain. The goal is not to make us feel bad for falling short. Jesus is simply asking that we get into the game. We embrace that there is a different way for us to be living.

- Now I just sprung this on you guys. But **if you practiced it, and had some help, and worked hard at it, do you think you could get better at it?**

And if I put together a **team**, and perhaps gave you a **coach**, and helped you along, do you think that would be helpful too?

-Jesus’ sermon on the Mount is an invitation to come join along, and be a part of team. It’s an invitation to come be a part of the pursuit of His kingdom, with your whole life. And he will be there with his spirit, and he invites us to be a part of the church.

-Are we going to fail? Certainly. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try our best!

- I need your guys help with one more thing.

Will you read the opening verse of the Sermon?

Matthew 5:1

And Will you read the last verse?

Matthew 7:28-29

Who is on the mountain with Jesus? There are two types of people who join Jesus on the mountain.

The crowd that is amazed, and the disciples who follow.

Disciples and Crowd.

There are two people on top of the mountain with Jesus.

Some admire Jesus. They awestruck by his teaching, think he is amazing, and marvel at what he says.

That’s good.

But only the disciples will walk down that mountain and do what Jesus teaches. Everyone was amazed. Only a few are followers.

Who will you be?