

I. Review

A. Wisdom and Exhortation for the Purposeful Gardener - Jesus has called us to a radical lifestyle of self denial and wholehearted love. He knows our human frame better than we know ourselves and in His deep care for us, He provides six exhortations that keep us anchored in intimacy and righteousness as we endeavor to live a SOTM lifestyle.

1. Judging in righteousness.
2. Relentless Dependence upon God.
3. Embracing the difficulty of the counter-cultural lifestyle.
4. Intentional community with people in like-minded pursuit.
5. Prioritizing the SOTM above all other forms of discipleship and ministry.
6. Assures our hearts that this lifestyle is the pinnacle of the wisdom of God.

II. The Priority of the SOTM Lifestyle - (Mt. 7:21-23)

A. As we looked at in our last session, the journey of intimacy with Jesus comes at a price; the way is narrow and difficult. In today's Christian culture, this statement hits us like heresy because of the great emphasis upon the unconditional gifts of love that He promises, such as grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Relational intimacy with God, however, is always given in a conditional sense. The depths of relationship in God is for, and to, those who seek it with intentionality and endurance. Once again, we must see the clear biblical distinction between our legal position in God, which is free to all those who believe, and our living condition, which is obtained through intentional and costly relational pursuit.

B. Jesus is now continuing on this theme of the narrow and difficult way and the misconceptions of priorities within the Christian walk and experience. Once again, His intimate knowledge of the human frame reveals what we will naturally aspire to, and, in His care for our heart, warns us that our wrong but well intended priorities could actually, eventually, cause us to fall away.

1. Jesus warns that there will be those who confess that Jesus is their "Lord" (Master/Owner/Possessor) but who neglect the SOTM lifestyle could actually end up not inheriting the coming Kingdom of God. The scriptures speak of this reality as a progressive eventual turning from the faith. (Lk 8:13; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:3-4)

2. This turning away comes as a result of a continual lifestyle of compromise and neglect of relational intimacy, thus giving permissions for death and wickedness to so kill their heart, and in turn, their relationship with Jesus. When their relationship with Jesus no longer exists, their legal position in Christ is lost and so are they. This biblical truth is not meant in any way to cause us to constantly question our salvation but rather to walk it out with sobriety knowing that lifestyles contrary to the SOTM can lead to death. (Heb. 6:4-6, 10:26-31; 2 Pet. 2:17-22)
3. Jesus warns us that we can easily get caught up in the works of ministry, and especially ministering in the sign gifts of the spirit, and mistake it for intimacy and relationship with God. This is an incredibly common error, especially within the charismatic church. The fact that Jesus said “many” will fall in this category should cause us to take a personal assessment of our priorities and our aspirations of our walk with Jesus.
4. I never knew you - The word translated “knew” used here has various implications, depending upon the tense or imperative in which it is used. The specific imperative used here speaks of friendship, or learning to know someone. It speaks of the difference between knowing someone's name or face and knowing someone's heart in deep friendship. Jesus is saying you never were my intimate friend, even though you confessed my name and identity.

III. The divine wisdom of building an unshakable relationship with Jesus - (Mt. 7:24-29)

- A. The final exhortation that Jesus gives us is absolute assurance that living the SOTM lifestyle is to be walking in the will and divine wisdom of God. Not only does He desire to assure our hearts of this wisdom but He also gives one last pastoral cry for us to listen to Him and intentionally pursue it. Beholding Jesus in the 8 beatitudes, waging war on the 6 toxins, and disciplining ourselves to do the 4 positioning activities is the way forward to divine wisdom, eternal greatness, and unshakable love. The original word translated “rock” does not mean one large individual rock but rather laying a foundation of rocks over time.

1. Divine Wisdom - Within the heart of every believer is a desire to walk in God's will for their life. The discussion and desire of God's will for their

life almost always centers around questions of practical assignment or calling in this age with an outward focus.

These discussions and desires to be in God's will outwardly must be eclipsed by the will of God for your life internally. Jesus refers to setting this priority of focusing internally on building your intimacy with Him through the SOTM as a life of divine wisdom. Jesus makes it clear that those who prioritize the outward will of God above inward, or attempt to build an inward life in God outside of the SOTM lifestyle are living a life of folly. (1 Thess. 4:1-12)

2. Greatness - Another longing in the heart of every person is the desire to be significant, and achieve something substantial (enter social media). You desire to be great precisely because you were meant to be great. Most attempt to fulfill this desire by striving for worldly honor and acclaim driven by a spirit of pride. We go to great lengths, and spend thousands of dollars, and expend vast amounts of time and energy to achieve our goals that we think will fulfill this desire. God has a much more excellent plan to fulfill your longing for greatness. This part of your divine calling, according to Him, is found only through living a SOTM lifestyle. (Mt. 5:19; 1 Cor. 3:11-15)
3. Unshakable - Lastly, Jesus tells us that this lifestyle is necessary in order to have unshakable faith and love. In a recent poll done by pew research, 65% of Christians believe that Jesus will return to the earth by 2060. Jesus told us that the most difficult time in human history will unfold just before His return. The bible calls this event the "great tribulation" or the time of "great shaking". Jesus likens the days leading up to His return to the great flood in Noah's day. Whether or not you believe this may happen in your lifetime or your children's lifetime, all have seen and experienced the fall of believers in the face of the storms of life. (Mt. 24:7-13, 36-44; Mt. 13:18-23)

"Wherein lay the second builder's folly? Not in deliberately seeking a bad foundation, but in taking no thought of foundation...His fault was not an error in judgment, but inconsiderateness. It is not, as is commonly supposed, a question of two foundations, but of looking to, and neglecting to look to, the foundation." (Bruce)

Session 34 - SOTM The Internal Beauty of the King and His Kingdom Sunday Nov. 22nd 2020

Wisdom and Exhortation To Walk out the SOTM:

Part 4 :Prioritizing the SOTM Lifestyle and Assurance in the Wisdom of God (Mt. 7:21-29)