

Bible Readings**Psalm 18:1-19**

For the director of music. Of David the servant of the Lord. He sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

¹ I love you, Lord, my strength.

² The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,
and I have been saved from my enemies.

⁴ The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

⁵ The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.

⁶ In my distress I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.

From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.

⁷ The earth trembled and quaked,
and the foundations of the mountains shook;
they trembled because he was angry.

⁸ Smoke rose from his nostrils;
consuming fire came from his mouth,

burning coals blazed out of it.

⁹ He parted the heavens and came down;
dark clouds were under his feet.

¹⁰ He mounted the cherubim and flew;
he soared on the wings of the wind.

¹¹ He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him—
the dark rain clouds of the sky.

¹² Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced,
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.

¹³ The Lord thundered from heaven;
the voice of the Most High resounded.

¹⁴ He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy,
with great bolts of lightning he routed them.

¹⁵ The valleys of the sea were exposed
and the foundations of the earth laid bare

at your rebuke, Lord,
at the blast of breath from your nostrils.

¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.

¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me.

¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support.

¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Psalm 18:46-50

⁴⁶ The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock!

Exalted be God my Savior!

⁴⁷ He is the God who avenges me,

who subdues nations under me,

⁴⁸ who saves me from my enemies.

You exalted me above my foes;

from a violent man you rescued me.

⁴⁹ Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;

I will sing the praises of your name.

⁵⁰ He gives his king great victories;

he shows unfailing love to his anointed,

to David and to his descendants forever.

Matthew 7:24-29

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man

who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Sermon "Danger of Only Head Knowledge"

13-Jun-21

Intro/Context

- It would be great to have your **bibles** turned to **Matthew 7:24-29**
- Let me **pray** before we go and further
- This is our **last look at the Sermon on the Mount** that starts at **Chapter 5** goes through to **Chapter 7**

[PowerPoint 1a-Context]

- Last week **Jesus** gave us a **contrast** between **saying** and **doing** - people were **saying** "Lord, Lord" - but they weren't **doing** the Lord's will - it was just lip-service
- This week the **contrast** is between **hearing** and **doing** - the people hear God's **Word** - but they don't do anything about it. It is just head-knowledge.
- **Jesus** - in verses 24-27 **addresses** the **problem** of people hearing His teaching - and not putting it into practice
- What **Jesus** is **emphasising** at the **end** of His **Sermon on the Mount** - is all that **He** has being **saying** about **living in God's Kingdom** - requires us to **repent of our sins** and **have faith in Jesus** - AND also to obey His teaching.

[PowerPoint 1b-Obedience]

- It's obedience that is the evidence of **genuine faith** (see James 2:14ff)
- **Jesus** **illustrates** His point **with** a small **parable**

The Parable (Matthew 7:24-27)

[PowerPoint 2-Parable]

- In the **parable** there are **2 builders** - a **wise** builder - and a **foolish** builder
{Greek for foolish is where we get **moron** from}
- There are **2 houses** - they may look exactly the same
- But the 2 houses are built on **2 different foundations**
- According to the same story in Luke (Luke 6:48) the **wise** builder dug deep and laid his **foundation on rock** - whereas the **foolish** builder built his house on a **foundation of sand** [like Mexico City built on a filled in Lake)
- The **2 houses** built on **two different foundations** - represent two ways to live our lives - a wise way or a foolish way - that is Jesus' way or our own way
- If we build our lives on **obedience to Jesus' teaching** - our life is built on a **rock-solid foundation**.
- If we build our lives on **disobedience to Jesus' teaching** - our life is built on an **unstable sandy foundation**.
- **Both houses** in the parable seem okay - until the storm comes - the storm is the wind and rain in the parable
- The **storm** ultimately represents Jesus' judgment on people's lives on the last day - **Jesus will judge us on whether we built our lives on the rock foundation of Jesus Himself** or on the sandy foundation of ourselves and this world

- The **storm** can also be the **trials we have in life** - as people go through trials in their lives - if they haven't built their life on the rock of Jesus - they may give up. If they have built their life on the rock of Jesus - they may get afraid or discouraged for a while but they will come back to the rock of Jesus - and remember His Word and His teaching - or get reminded of His Word - from another Christian
- The **point of the parable** is that people may say they are Christian - because they've learnt some head knowledge - they use words like "Lord" - and call people "**brother and sister**" and talk about "fellowship" - they may say things like "You're in my prayers, brother/sister" - and they may even throw a few Bible verses into their **conversations**. But it's just head knowledge - their lives aren't built on the rock of Jesus and they don't read His Word and they don't follow His teaching - and they don't apply His Word to their lives - and they don't put it into practice. They are **not genuine Christians**. They are fake. Others may never know they are fake - they are like the house built on sand - it looks fine until the storm hits. These fake Christians will not be accepted by Jesus on that final judgment day - because their lives are not built on Him - **the rock**
- Whereas genuine Christians - not only have "head" knowledge of God's Word but they have built their lives on the rock of Jesus - they read His Word - they follow His teaching and they apply His Word to their lives - and they put it into practice. **They have** - head - heart - and hand knowledge of

Jesus. Genuine Christians - trust in God's Word - when the storms of life hit - and they will be accepted by Jesus on that final judgment day

Put it into practice (v24)

[PowerPoint 3a-Practice]

- The **key phrase** in this parable is in **verse 24** where it says: "*puts them into practice*"
- What are we to put into practice?
- Look at **v24 again** - Jesus says "*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice*"
- What words of Jesus is He talking about?
- **Look at v24 again** - it begins with the word "**therefore**"
- When we see the word "therefore" - we should ask ourselves "*what's it there for?*"
- The "**therefore**" connects everything Jesus has been saying in His Sermon on the Mount - from the start of chapter 5
- What Jesus wants genuine Christians to do is to **put His teaching from the Sermon on the Mount into practice**
- He wants us to live our lives -with head, heart and hand knowledge of what He's taught us in His Sermon
- Now there may be people here this morning that are going through tough times at the moment
 - You might be grieving someone who has just died - or you're grieving someone who's not the same as you knew them - or they are really

sick or they've developed dementia or they've lost their independence - and you're really grieving

- Or you might be struggling with relationships in your family
- Or you might feel lonely or isolated or even depressed
- You might have a really difficult problem or crisis right now and you need help with it

[PowerPoint 3b-Sermon on the Mount]

- In every situation we face in our lives -Jesus is saying - we need to look at our life through the lens of His teaching in the Sermon on the Mount -
 - Starting with chapter 5 - Jesus wants us to have the attitudes of the beatitudes
 - We need to have an **attitude** that is **aware of our sins - and we must repent**
 - We need an **attitude** that **hungers and thirsts to be right with God and to be righteous like Jesus**
 - An **attitude** that knows if we are grieving - that we will be comforted
 - An **attitude** that is pure in heart and a peacemaker - even when relationships in the family are tense
 - An **attitude** that is prepared to face persecutions for being a Christian and still persevere

- When others around us are behaving badly or when we are around people who are not Christians- Jesus wants us to season people's life with our salt as Christians - and be a light for Jesus so that others will come out of the darkness of their sin and into the light of Jesus
- Jesus wants us to use the Bible as our moral compass - not our gut feelings - only God's Word - which Jesus says lasts forever
- Jesus wants us not to murder people in our hearts by being angry with them - He wants us to forgive and make peace
- Jesus wants us to cut out anything in our lives that would make us lust after someone
- He wants us to have a heart for marriage and faithfulness - not a heart for unfaithfulness and divorce
- He wants the words we use to be trustworthy - our Yes must be trusted - and our No must be trusted
- If someone is really horrible to us - Jesus doesn't want us NOT to retaliate - we are to turn the other cheek - we are to pray for those who are against us
- Into chapter 6
- Jesus wants us to have a heart for those in need - and when we do help them - we are not to blow our own trumpet - or to expect accolades - we help in secret - our left hand shouldn't know what our right hand is doing

- **He wants us** to be committed to praying - sincere prayers - not flowery - not showy prayers - but private prayers as much as we possibly can - and **with fasting** if there is a great need
- **Jesus wants us** to invest our energy in sharing the Gospel - not in accumulating wealth that we can't take with us
- And rather than worrying - which doesn't help us a bit - Jesus says we are to **seek God's kingdom first**
- Then into chapter 7
- Before we judge others - Jesus teaches we need to take a good look in the mirror - and see our own faults - before pointing out others faults - and repent of our own faults first
- **Jesus wants us** to be persistent when we have a problem or crisis, we need help with - He wants us to ask, seek and knock - and keep on asking, and keep on seeking and keep on knocking - until God answers
- **We are to** enter into through the narrow gate - where Jesus is the gate that leads to the narrow road - that leads to eternal life in Heaven
- **We are to be** cautious about being sucked in by false prophets or false teachers - we're to **recognize false teachers** by the lack of good fruit they produce on their spiritual tree
- **We are to only do the will of the father** - the father's will is for us to believe with our heart that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour (John

6:40) and to enjoy eternal life - and to obey His commands (John 15:10) - and **see Jesus as Lord of our life**

- I hope you can see that every life situation is covered by Jesus' amazing teaching in the Sermon on the Mount
- There is a lot for us to put into practice from Jesus' words
- To do this we need the help of the Holy Spirit - which Jesus has sent to us - and which lives inside all believers
- The Holy Spirit changes our head knowledge - to heart and hand knowledge
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King David shows us how (Psalm 18)

- King David shows us in our OT reading from Psalm 18 that he has more than head knowledge of the Lord

[PowerPoint 4-David]

- [Turn to Psalm 18]
- When David was on the run from King Saul and on the run from his enemies - He wrote this Psalm - at a time when he was afraid and lonely and felt like there was no-one to help - But David realizes He has the Lord
- In v1 - The Lord is where David gets his strength from - not from himself
- In v2 - look at the picture David paints of his Lord - a rock foundation to build His life on - his fortress which speaks of God's protection - his deliverer who has delivers people from the danger of sin - and the danger of dying - the God he can run to when he is afraid and on the run - a shield when enemies are

after him - and God is **David's saviour** - as well as a **stronghold** - when David needs to hide under God's wing

- In v3 - David sees God as the one to call out for help from his enemies - **David faces death** (vv4-5) and he cries out to God for help (v6) - and **God heard and God answered and God acted**
- That's because David's faith was genuine - He **believed in God with all his heart** - David's head knowledge of God was accompanied by heart knowledge and action (hand) - David had an intimate personal relationship with the Lord
- So much so that - at the **end of the Psalm** - v46 - David can confidently say:
The Lord lives! Praise be to my rock! Exalted be God my Saviour
- Jesus wants us to be just like David - in our response to His Sermon on the Mount - responding with head, heart and hands...

Conclusion - The Teacher (Matthew 7:28-29)

[PowerPoint 5-Conclusion]

- And so, we come to the end of the Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 7:28-29
- We're told in v28-29 - the crowds were amazed at Jesus' teaching, because He taught as one who had authority...
- As one commentator (FF Bruce) **says**, "the Scribes and Pharisees spoke BY authority and rested on their traditions of what had been said before; Jesus spoke WITH authority, out of His own Soul"

- Charles Spurgeon says Jesus' teaching surprised His listeners in two ways - in its **substance** (they'd never heard such doctrine before) and in its **manner** (authority, power and weight)
- **The reason Jesus' teaching** was so different from anything before is because we need to understand with what authority Jesus is speaking with here:
 1. He has the authority of a teacher
 2. He has the authority of the Christ - the **Messiah** that God the **Father** had **sent**
 3. He has the authority of the Lord - He wants each person to have Him as Lord of their lives
 4. He has the authority of the Saviour - the only one who can remove the punishment of our sins and grant us forgiveness and eternal life
 5. He has the authority of the Judge - the One who will judge everyone on the Last Day
 6. He has the authority of the Son of God - Jesus the Son always does the will of the Father who sent Him
 7. And He has the authority as God - Jesus is fully man and fully God - and with Him nothing is impossible
- **Friends, head knowledge of what Jesus teaches** in the Sermon on the Mount is not enough
- We need to have heart knowledge of Jesus' teaching and put it into practice (with our hands by doing!) Let's Pray...