

Morning Sermon September 13, 2020

“How to Make Your Salvation Sure!”

Matthew 7:24-29

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: Matthew 7:24

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, ... 2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

- I. *These verses start with a therefore, therefore we can ask the question what is the “therefore” there for? What is the reason?*

It goes back at least to – Matthew 7:21-23

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!’ Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)

1. *These verses tell us a solid assurance of salvation requires more than:*
 - A. *A profession of faith*
 - B. *Wonderful performance of religious deeds -*
2. *Assurance of salvation requires obedience to the will of the Father!*

- II. *Our current text calls us to obedience to the sayings / teachings of Christ –*

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: Matthew 7:24

1. *The obedience required to the saying of Christ is the reason for the people’s astonishment -*

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. Matthew 7:28-29

2. *He taught with such authority not only because He was a superior Teacher, but because He is God - these sayings of Mine - :24*

- A. *No scribe would have dared to speak like that ...*
- B. *Similarly, today, I can call for obedience to God’s Word, but not my own ...*

III. *Obedience to Christ means and includes faith in Christ -*

²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:28–29 (NKJV)

1. *True faith is not a superficial thing –*
³⁵ The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:35–36 (NKJV)

I heard this used this week as if it is ALL --- meaning all I have to do is believe in Jesus:

- A. *I don’t need to know theology*
- B. *I don’t need to be a Bible scholar*

Question: Do you believe in Jesus? Mushroom Cult: Yes! What do you believe about Jesus? Mushroom cult: Jesus was a mushroom!

2. *True Faith means not trusting yourself –*
⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

In the beatitudes Jesus taught this –

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:3–5 (NKJV)

- A. *Poor in Spirit people are not trusting in SELF*
- B. *Meek people are teachable, obedient –*

⁹ The meek He guides in justice, And the meek He teaches His way. Psalm 25:9

3. *Truth saving faith leads to a dependence upon Christ which includes “following” Him*

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given

them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one." John 10:27-30 (NKJV)

IV. *What this following / obedience consists of is communicated in the Sermon on the Mount –*

1. *Desiring and attaining true righteousness –*
⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

2. *Being merciful, like Christ – Matthew 5:7*

3. *Becoming "pure in heart" like Christ – Matthew 5:8*

4. *Becoming a "peacemaker" like Christ – Matthew 5:9*

5. *Continuing faithful to God even through persecution, like Christ – Matthew 5:10-12, which I believe is a BIG Part of what this sermon conclusion is talking about -*

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." 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. Matthew 7:24-29 (NKJV)

The storm, or persecution or any other kind of difficulty can knock down the house of faith built on SAND!

6. *This righteousness / obedience we have makes us different than the world, makes us SHINE in the world –*

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that

they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:12-15 (NKJV)

7. *This righteousness which a true saved believer is extremely faithful to Scripture and EXCEEDS not only the ungodly world but the most righteous of mere men –*

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:17-20 (NKJV)

A. *Exceeds because God-given, prayed for – Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, seek, Knock!*

B. *Exceeds because internal not merely external -*

Murder, includes anger in heart – Matthew 5:21-26
Adultery, lust in heart – Matthew 5:27-30

C. *Exceeds because it includes issues excused by a lax society: divorce, oaths, retaliation – Matthew 5:31-42*

D. *Exceeds because it calls us to Love like the Father, even our enemies – Matthew 5:43-48*

E. *Exceeds because even alms giving, prayer and fasting may fall short ...*

F. *It excels by seeking first God's Kingdom – Matthew 6*

This is the narrow way that leads to life! Few find it!

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