

Matthew Sermon Series
Matthew 7:13-27

Sermon on the Mount – His blessings for my curse

• **Matt. 7:13-27**

First, why does Jesus end the sermon this way?

We introduced the topic of recapitulation

- Jesus reenacting the OT

Notice how the sermon starts & now how it finishes & we will see how well you know your Bible & this idea of recapitulation

The sermon starts with the beatitudes...blessed are

Now the sermon ends with warnings? Ring a bell?

This is Deuteronomy all over again

- The blessings & the curses

Deut. 11:26 “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: [27] the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, [28] and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.

Share staged request on Mt. Gerizim & Ebal, Joshua 8

What is most fascinating to me is in the original blessings & curses, they are all about obedience

- The pressure is on you to make it happen before God
- And of course no one can pull it off

Here the warnings are really pointing us to Jesus

- The pressure is on Jesus as our substitute to make it happen
- His life of obedience for our life of mistakes
- He gets our curse of disobedience & we get His blessing of obedience

Man what a MASSIVE difference in what Jesus is bringing us

Side note:

There are actually 5 discourses in the Gospel of Matthew

- a) Chapters 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount)
- b) Chapter 10
- c) Chapter 13
- d) Chapter 18
- e) Chapters 24-25

Every single discourse by Jesus ends with warnings & promises

Blessings & curses

And every one of them is about HIM & what He is willing to do for US

Think about how the whole sermon started

"Blessed are the poor in spirit"

Blessed are those that KNOW they cannot do it

Blessed are those that KNOW they are not just off but completely broken

Blessed are those that KNOW they need a substitute for their wretched life

Know THIS, & Jesus fulfills what God asks on your behalf

And YOU receive HIS blessing that He earned before His Father

And when you read the sermon & hear what God expects of us:

- Not just don't murder, but you call someone an idiot inside & you are guilty already
- Not just don't commit adultery, if you lust & objectify another person you already have
- Not just don't lie, but be so amazing you NEVER need to qualify a statement
- Not just don't retaliate, but rather adjust your whole life to elevate the other person
- Don't just love your neighbor, love your enemy
- Give, pray, fast - & oh BTW never let anyone know you are doing it
- Don't just believe in Jesus, TREASURE Him
& show Him you treasure Him by giving your stuff away liberally
- Have no anxiety ever since God cares for you
- Never look down on anyone, but rather with a continual eye towards your own faults seek to love them & want what's best for them

And to that...we raise our white flag & surrender

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs IS the Kingdom of heaven"

His life for mine!!!

This HAS to be our mindset when we read these warnings

So, what about these warnings in our passage this morning?

- 2 gates, 2 trees, 2 houses

I love how Rob Bell categorized these = 3 warnings:

Two gates:

- Matt. 7:13-14

1) Gate = Warnings about the world

What is Jesus telling us reality is?

a) Wide Gate

"easy" = spacious

This is the key I think

Easy is a bad translation...makes it sound like Jesus is saying life works great in this place without Him

What He is saying rather is life without God looks boundary less

No one runs your show

You in affect are your own god

You decide what is best, what you want, what truth is

- Wanna sleep with someone? Go for it
- Wanna party like a teenager? Go for it
- Wanna keep all your money? Go for it

It is spacious

Compare that with the narrow gate

b) Narrow gate looks

i. Looks limiting

- God tells me what I cannot do
- God decides truth
- God directs
- Jesus is referred to as our Master

ii. Looks exclusionary

"I am the way, the truth & the life. NO ONE comes to God the Father but thru ME"

iii. Requires repentance

You have to be honest enough with yourself to admit you are sinful & can't run life on your own

"Blessed are the poor in spirit..."

Problem Jesus says is you are only looking at the opening

It is broad on the outside but what you see is ALL there is

Prov. 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

This is what Adam & Eve were offered in Genesis 3 – run your own life

- What a spacious decision right?

And holy cow look at this place

- 17 million died in WWI
- 60 million died in WWII – 3% of the world population
- Upwards to 20 million Jews died in the Holocaust
- 500,000 Syrians have died in this recent war
- 11 million Syrians have been kicked out of their homes

This is just listing a couple things in the last 100 years

Nice spacious decision & look at what life looks like without God

"leads to destruction"

All because we chose to not "break in spirit" before God

Admitting we are wretched & cannot make it without Him

All while He squeezes our lungs with every breath we take

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture (means openness).

Next circle in...

Two Trees & fruit:

- Matt. 7:21-23

2) Trees = Warnings within the church

This is just as chilling

a) "In Your Name" = Professing Christians

b) Call Him Lord = kurios = connotation of deity, believe He is Son of God

c) Lord, Lord = 2x is intensity = passion

d) Doing great things = in ministry

In ministry, right doctrine, serving alongside other believers

And what does Jesus say? It is utterly chilling!

"I never knew you"

You understand, you work & serve, go to church all the time...

And what does Jesus say?

There is no connection between us

So busy, so Bible knowing...& yet so disconnected

This just makes the hair on my neck stand up

Not about me BTW...I KNOW Jesus

But that we even in this church have those that profess to be Christians & serve & yet there is no transforming power in their life

They spend their time serving & criticizing...& yet you hear nothing of their passion for Jesus & how ravished they are personally by Jesus

Jesus says there are 2 kinds of people in the church...they are both praying, both serving

But one is still in control of their own life...they are their own god

Is this you?

Supposed to make us WAKE UP!

Do you know OF Jesus & yet have just confused relationship with Jesus with your church busyness?

Or in the words of Jesus in Matthew 6 do you "treasure" Him?

Vs. 22 – Did we not..., did we not, did we not – in Greek it is 3x

Shows you they are on the wrong road...all about what they are DOING and/or about what someone else ISN'T

Rather than what Jesus has done for them!

Next circle in...

Two buildings:

- Matt. 7:24-27

3) House = Warnings within ourselves

This is what I refer to as the salad bar approach

Can hear the cry of Jesus & yet walk away unaffected

You hear how Jesus wants you to shift, & you pick & choose

Again you are saved but you live your life as if you still wanna be god

I see this all the time after I preach on something

You hear things about your approach to marriage, parenting, relationships, unfair expectations on life & people, your purity, your giving

Whatever...& you choose what works for YOU

It is the difference that we talked about between Lord, Lord, & MASTER

And yet your life is built on SAND if it isn't relinquished to God's will

I would venture to say Jesus KNOWS what is best...about marriage, relationships, purity, parenting, giving

He KNOWS about your heart

My dad – He is right!

But this requires two things:

a) It requires a constantly broken sense of self

Staying connected to how broken & weak & utterly incapable we are to navigate life without Jesus

b) Intention

Story of my dad when I asked him about how he did it all those years going to work = "I got up"

We must fight against the FORCE of this world & the force of our fleshly weakness

Culture is not static

- Marriage
- Approach to life
- Your MONEY
- Time with kids
- Time in the Word
- Time in community with people that will elevate your sense of God & yourself
- Time being mentored

"Blessed are the poor in spirit...for theirs is the Kingdom of God"

Jer. 21:8 "And to this people you shall say: 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

Context is Israel leaving & allowing the Babylonians to take over

The context is Israel sinning & going into exile & God being willing to bring them back

The principle – we were all in exile to our own sinful lives

And God is willing to bring us back

But not JUST bring us back...but to give us LIFE

The question is will we trust Him?

What a beautiful God that AFTER we turned our back on Him He comes to us

Looking, seeking, pursuing

And when He finds us He warns us

1) Don't settle for the spacious entrance, it's a trap

2) Don't settle for what you do rather than WHO you know, it's a trap

3) Don't settle for just some of the things I share with you...I CREATED LIFE so obviously

I know how to find life

Come to Me, and I will give you life!

I will hand you the blessings of my Perfect life for the imperfections of your curse

We have the beauty of not living under the curse of our own inability

But rather the freedom of Jesus power & ability handed to us

TAKE IT!