

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**April 3, 2016 14. Intensity of Prayers for Choice of the Gate to Enter**

**Matthew 7:7-14**

As Jesus begin to conclude His Sermon on the Mount, He made demands for His disciples or followers to take action on what He has been teaching them. His teachings have been so unique; not like that of the scribes and the Pharisees for He taught with convictions, boldness and authority. In Chapter 6, He had taught His followers how to pray; now in chapter 7 He is demanding from them to put that into practice. Prayer is communication with God. Communication is a key ingredient of human growth and survival. Prayer is a spiritual key ingredient for spiritual growth and survival. So Jesus teaches His followers about the intensity of prayers to help them make great choices to enter the narrow gate and follow the narrow path that leads to eternity with God. The intensity of prayer rises from asking to seeking, and ultimately to knocking to help His disciples to enter the narrow door into the narrow way that leads to life.

Hence our text of the day states, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “Which of you if your son asks for bread will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” 12 So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. 13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:7-14).

In these verses Jesus was instructing his disciples or followers about the importance of His teaching about prayer. These verses actually speak about aspects of prayer that should be a part of our Christian walk for us to make the good choice to enter the narrow path that leads to life. We shall discuss these verses as a progression of intensity in prayer: ask, seek, knock and enter.

**1. Ask**

Jesus started this discussion by saying “ask and it be given to you”. This means if you do not ask, it shall not be given to you. To ask means making a request as a favor. This is the first level of intensity in prayer as you cannot make a request for favor from a stranger. There has to be a relation before you can confidently ask for a favor. As such we can certainly ask our earthly fathers with confidence and we will receive what we asked. Jesus said, “For everyone who asks receives; ... which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” Do you know that God is your heavenly father? If you don’t know God personally as your heavenly father, there is no way you can ask with confidence to receive anything from Him because you are a stranger to him, with no relationship whatsoever with Him. Moreover there are two other

conditions when you ask. The first condition is that you ask in faith, (Matthew 21:22 – “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer”). Faith is not self confidence, nor an emotion or a feeling. Faith is placing your hopes in an invisible God and being sure that He will not disappoint you, (Hebrews 11:1, 6 – “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him”). The first condition then that you ask in faith and second condition that follows the first is you act in faith. For faith not accompanied by actions is dead, (James 2:26 – “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead”). The practical question then is how do you act in faith when asking for something from God? It is by believing that you have already received what you asked for (Mark 11:24 – “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”). Let me conclude this section with an illustration with the following story. There was a severe drought that seemed to last eternity in a small community of farmers in Africa. The wondered as what to do since rain was important to keep their crops healthy and sustain the people’s way of life. As the problem persisted and became more acute, a local pastor called a prayer meeting to ask for rain. Many people arrived. The pastor greeted most of them as they came in. As he walked to the front of the church to officially begin the prayer meeting he noticed most people were chatting across the aisles and socializing with friends. When he reached the front of the church he motioned for the crowd to be quiet. But he noticed an elderly frail man sitting quietly in the front row and full of excitement, poised and ready with an umbrella to use after the prayer meeting! The pastor smile as he realized how much faith this frail old man possessed since no one else in the congregation had brought an umbrella.

## 2. Seek

The second thing in the intensity of prayer is to seek. The prayer of faith must be accompanied by action. However, if that prayer is not according to God’s will, it is in vain as it will not be answered. So we must “seek” God’s will as He does not answer prayers that contradict His expressed will. Jesus said, “seek and you will find; ... for the one who seeks finds...” As earthly father will not give anything to their children that will hurt them, so will God do to those who are his children (Matthew 7:9-11). This is why it is very essential to seek God’s will because Jesus has taught his disciples to pray that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven. How do you know whether your prayer contradicts God’s will? Be careful before you answer this question. Think about it, do you ask God to meet your needs or to give what you want? James 4:2 says, “You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask”. God has promised to provide our needs and not our wants. When you abide in God and let His word abide in you, then you will know the will of God and what isn’t. John 15:7 states: “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you”; this because you will then be asking according to God’s will. Each time you ask according to God’s will you will receive your answer! The prayer of Eliaser is a perfect example when he sought God’s will in finding a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:12-14).

### **3. Knock**

The next intensity level in prayer is to knock. Jesus said, “Knock and the door will be opened to you ... and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened”. The act of knocking represents intercessory prayer for others. When you knock you will be able to enter the throne of grace to intercede for others. Prayers are not just for you alone but also for others. As such Paul wrote, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). And Jesus said, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you for, this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12). To me this spells the need for intercession. Knocking is interceding for others. A great example is the parable of Jesus about the man asking bread for a guest in the middle of the night by knocking to wake the other friend (Luke 11:5-8). This man asked for bread so that he can show hospitality to his guest. The question to ask is how often do you intercede for others especially in the middle of the night? Rarely, because unfortunately we are busy praying for our own needs and perhaps our wants that we forget that the bible says we should intercede for the salvation of others. From today, why don't you begin to intercede by asking God to give wisdom to our political leaders? And to be honest, when was the last time you interceded for someone, especially your leaders?

### **4. Enter**

When you ask for God's favor as his child, seek God's will and intercede for others then you will enter into the narrow gate of the narrow path that leads to eternal life. Jesus concluded our text for the day by saying, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14). This is a call to action that requires a choice. Do not just follow the crowd. Ask God for favor, seek His will and intercede for others so that you can enter this narrow gate which few find it to the narrow road which leads to life. You see, in real life, it is easier to go through the wide gate into the broad road that leads to destruction; many (or the crowd) enter through such. The crowd does not ask God's favor or God's will and neither will it intercede for others because its focus is self-indulgence (both self-centeredness and selfishness) rather than selflessness that pleases God.

### **Conclusion**

Faith and asking for a favor go hand in hand and are inseparable. You can have faith but if you don't ask you will not receive and likewise, you can ask but if you don't have faith you are not going anywhere. First you ask in faith, and then you act in faith. Seeking God's will is important for prayers to be answered. There are many good and bad reasons why some prayers are not answered. One definite negative reason why prayers are not answered is praying out of God's will. Hence, set apart a definite time out of your daily devotions to pray for others as you knock (or intercede) on their behalf. Maintain a list of people you know who need prayers and place their needs before God every day.

**Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The Sermon on the Mount is the most famous sermon Jesus ever gave and perhaps it is the most famous sermon ever given by anyone. In it Jesus taught us:**

- **The Beatitudes – virtues in life which will ultimately lead to reward in this life and the life thereafter.**
- **Using the metaphors of Salt and Light – to explain the roles of believers in the world**
- **He has come to fulfill the Law**
- **About sin of adultery which starts with lust in the heart**
- **About divorce and remarriage**
- **Oath and extension or amplification of taking oaths unnecessarily, so that your Yes is yes and No is no.**
- **Forgiveness rather than retaliation (an eye for an eye, etc.)**
- **To love our enemies**
- **Right motive to three essentials of worship to receive reward from God**
- **To store up treasures in heaven**
- **Seek first His Kingdom and its righteousness and not to worry (or avoid distractions)**
- **Not to be judged or you too will be judged**
- **Intensity of Prayers for Choice of the Gate to Enter the narrow gate and road to life**
- **And let the church say, “Amen!”**

**Do you know this Jesus who transforms you to be truthful always? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God’s kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!**

**If you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.**

**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama  
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev Minister Keith Torbert**

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**April 10, 2016**

**Minister Keith Torbert preached but did not provide written synopsis**

**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama**  
**Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

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**SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**April 17, 2016**

**16. Watchfulness in Identifying False Individuals**

**Matthew 7:15-23**

As Jesus begin to conclude His Sermon on the Mount, He made demands for His disciples or followers to take action on what He has been teaching them. His teachings have been so unique; not like that of the scribes and the Pharisees for He taught with convictions, boldness and authority. In Chapter 7, Jesus is demanding His disciples/followers to put into practice what they have learned from Him. In the section of today's text, Jesus is challenging His followers or disciples watch out for false prophets and to ascertain they are not false disciples either.

The last time we discussed the Intensity of Prayers and Choice of the Gate to Enter. Jesus warned His followers to "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it." In today's text Jesus warns about falsehood that can deceive the true disciples.

Hence our text of the day reads, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:15-23).

In these verses Jesus was instructing his disciples or followers about the importance of being watchful so as to be able to identify true and false individuals. Specifically Jesus mentions the true and false prophets, and the true and false disciples.

Why would Jesus talk about false prophets and false disciples after talking about the narrow and wide gates and choosing between two paths? This is because the road that leads to life isn't an easy one, and there are many who, for one reason or another, fake it. Within Christian the circle there are leaders, pastors, prophets in the churches and ministries both small and large who fake it and are phony. They seem like they are on the path, but they are not. And there are "disciples" or "followers" who also fake it. They seem like they are on the path, but they are not. There is so much pretence that if you are not watchful you can easily be deceived. And the danger is that those who are authentically following the narrow path can be led astray by the False Prophets and False Disciples. As you can see the emphasis is still on choosing between two paths. One that leads us to destruction and the other that leads to Life. But now Jesus is reminding us that there are those among us, both leaders and "disciples," who would lead some away from the path of life. And part of being on the path means that we have to be aware and beware of the dangers and guard against them.

## **1. False Prophets**

**Jesus starts with False Prophets because everything starts with whoever is in charge. If the leaders are following a false gospel, then chances are the people who follow such leaders are living a false gospel. Like it or not we are dependent upon our leaders. Often people reason, if it is okay for the leader, then it must be okay for me. So Jesus says, Watch out for the false prophets/leaders because they look like sheep, but really they are ferocious wolves. These leaders look like they belong to the people of God. They know the right words and actions but their intention or motive is not to lead the people of God but to do things for personal gratification. People become false prophets for many reasons. For some it is financial gain. Today, the “Christian” market is worth billions and billions of dollars. For some it is fame and recognition. For others, they just have false ideas about the Gospel, and begin to rewrite it to suit them and ask others to follow them. These people often do serious damage to the Kingdom of God.**

**When Jesus is talking about false prophets and describing them as ferocious wolves He is referring to teachers and leaders who are doing more than just making a mistake or having a doctrinal disagreement but those misleading the people of God away from the true Gospel. The greatest sign of a false prophet or leader is the fruit or righteousness of their life. The original Greek is very emphatic about this as it places the phrase “By their deeds” at the beginning of the sentence. By the deeds of the false prophets you will know they are false. Just as a weed will not produce a beautiful flower and thistles will not produce grapes so false prophets will not produce good fruit because they are not connected to the life giving source of Jesus.**

**A good tree bears good fruit because it is healthy. A bad tree bears bad fruit. Unfortunately it is really easy to hide the bad fruit. Leaders do it for years. And some false leaders and prophets are able to openly flaunt their false gospel and people fall for it. Why? This is because they don't really know or want to know the truth. For instance, which of the following statements false and better to hear: First, God loves you and has a perfect plan for your life that you don't have to sacrifice anything? Or, God has a master plan and He invites you to sacrifice all your hopes and dreams to see His plan for you accomplished? Secondly, God wants you to be prosperous in your life? Or, God wants you to sacrifice your lives for His Kingdom? Thirdly, to get into heaven just say this prayer and you will know? Or, Follow Jesus, and take on His life and practices as your own? Fourthly, we are all God's children? Or only those who receive and believe Jesus Christ are the children of God? False prophets and teachers have gotten really good at sounding like they are the real thing whereas they are ferocious wolves in sheep's clothing. So be watchful and be aware of them.**

## **2. False Disciples**

**Although Jesus doesn't come down as hard on false disciples as false prophets by calling them ferocious wolves or anything like that, He does make it perfectly clear that many who believe they are just fine disciples or followers of Christ will find themselves outside of the Kingdom. They will be looking forward to a day when they will be with Jesus in His Kingdom, but they are completely wrong. It sounds harsh to me because I would love Jesus to be loving and kind and readily accepting of everyone. But this passage reminds us that many will call Him “Lord” with their lips, but the problem is their lives do not reflect His Kingdom or His righteousness. Many will have said the sinners prayer, but not really be His disciple. Some may have spent years in the**

church or in the ministry but may not really be a disciple of Jesus. What makes this passage even more difficult is the great list of things these false disciples claim to have accomplished such as "...did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" That doesn't sound like a list that would come from people who don't know Jesus. However, what is the primary sign that a person is a false disciple? They do not do the will of the Father as they are disobedient to His word. They may do a lot of good things, but obedience is what is required. For instance if I ask my child to clean their room, and they come home and do the dishes, clean up the yard, vacuum the whole house but failed to clean their room. Even though those are all good things, and really would be considered marvelous but that is not what I wanted done. The child was still disobedient. This is how many people behave towards God. They believe that if they make the right sacrifices or do this or that good thing that they are will enter into the kingdom of God. But no good thing we do, no amount of sacrifice we make, will ever replace being obedient to God's will. And what a horrible thing to hear Jesus say to us, "I never knew you; away from me, you evildoers!" What a sharp contrast to Matthew 25 where the true disciple is welcomed with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Those are the words I want to hear. I mean I think I'm doing some good stuff for God sometimes. I get words of encouragement from some of you. But there is no validation whatsoever, nothing indeed that can outdo hearing God say, "Well done!" The false disciple who has the words "Lord, Lord" on their lips, but don't do the will of the Father will only hear, "I never knew you, away from me, you evildoers!"

Both of these descriptions of the false prophets and false disciples leave me asking, how do we know the right thing when we see it? There are some tools to help us know the difference between the false prophets and disciples, and the true prophets and disciples.

1. Spend time in prayer and in God's Word.

We do not have to be biblical scholars. But we each do need to spend time with God's Word. We need to study it. We need to spend time praying for God to enlighten the passages so that we understand it. And the more we study and spend time with God, the more easy we can recognize the false. False prophets sound really good, and they sound very biblical, and the only way to really know a false prophet or recognize a false disciple is to spend radical amounts of time in God's Word familiarizing ourselves with the original. And when we are familiar with the original then we are able to best use our second tool of watchfulness for the true fruit.

2. Watch for fruitfulness.

Without spending time in prayer and in God's word it is impossible to watch for true fruit as one would not be familiar with what God says is true fruit. There are many that would have us to believe that true fruit is being successful or having the biggest church or the biggest bank account or having the most Bible knowledge or doing the most church stuff or whatever, but we cannot really define or know fruitfulness until we spend time getting to know God personally and deeply. Bible Knowledge and activity involvement alone do not replace Christian character and maturity which has to do with knowing God deeply and personally. Sometimes the people with the most Bible knowledge alone without knowing God are some of the meanest people around. They are just waiting to thump someone with their knowledge or more accurately to point out how little you know. What this tells me is that while they have a lot of knowledge they have very little understanding. They haven't allowed that knowledge to transform them into the image of

God and allow it to make them become more like Christ. And getting involved in activities by doing stuff for God can easily become a replacement for spending time with God. There are people that do all kinds of stuff for God such as serving the poor and homeless, leading classes, setting up chairs (not that we don't need people setting up the chairs), etc., but do not have any relationship with God as such all these activities do not lead us to more maturity in Christ. True maturity is actually seen in the people who demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and are doing the will of the Father.

### **3. Be careful about the miraculous.**

Jesus indicates in today's passage that people who are not true disciples are actually far from God but can do some pretty phenomenal things such as building big ministries and churches, feeding the poor and healing the hurting, doing miraculous things in our world, and yet they are built on something false. It is sometimes hard to believe that someone who is false can do all these things! But I do believe that Jesus' name will be praised and lifted up even in the hands of those who don't really know Him; and He will accomplish His mission and purpose for our world even through those who would seek to do it harm. People can and are changed, transformed, healed, and renewed in spite of some "false teachers". While they are doing it all for the wrong reasons, God is still able to work in people's lives to accomplish His mission to His glory. However, be careful about the miraculous because, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven".

### **4. Spend time in prayer and in God's Word with others.**

It is so important to spend time in prayer and in God's word, but I want to add that we are never released to do this completely on our own. This is because God always gives us scholars, teachers, pastors, leaders, and fellow Christians to help us on in this journey of building a relationship with Him as we spend time in prayers and in God's word with them. The pilgrim's journey cannot be traveled alone; other believers are relevant as they may have resources that we need to fully understand God's Word and to hear His voice in prayer. So sitting alone in my office or home reading the Bible alone is not good enough. I have to utilize others sometimes to help me understand what God is saying. So, I use commentaries and books and the Internet and other Christians who have taught this stuff before. Then God filters it through me, but I'm not alone in this. It is a team effort.

## **Conclusion**

As we conclude this message, have you ever seen or played the game where you have to spot the difference between two pictures? It is basically the same picture, but some things have been changed and you have to figure out what it is? Sometimes the differences are glaring, but in some instances the differences are extremely difficult to find. False prophets and false disciples are a lot like that. We are expected, through prayer and God's Word and others, to figure out who is the false prophet and false disciples.

Yes, we have to be careful of the whole splinter in their eye while the log is in mine, we have to take in to account the Sermon on the Mount's teaching on judging others, we have to make some pretty close decision about mistakes and doctrinal differences versus blatant falsehood, but most



important we must realize we are talking about our pursuit of the narrow road. And that is what makes it all the more important for us to be watchful to identify the false individuals because they will mislead to the broad road that leads to destruction.

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The Sermon on the Mount is the most famous sermon Jesus ever gave and perhaps it is the most famous sermon ever given by anyone. In it Jesus taught us:

- The Beatitudes – virtues in life which will ultimately lead to reward in this life and the life thereafter.
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- Intensity of Prayers for Choice of the Gate to Enter the narrow gate and road to life
- Watchfulness in Identifying False Individuals
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

Do you know this Jesus who transforms you to be truthful always? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God’s kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama**  
**Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

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**SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**April 24, 2016**

**17. Outcomes of Practicing Jesus’ Teachings**

**Matthew 7:24-29**

As Jesus begin to conclude His Sermon on the Mount, He made demands for His disciples and/or

followers to take action on what they have been taught. His teachings have been so unique; not like that of the scribes and the Pharisees for He taught with convictions, boldness and authority. In Chapter 7, Jesus is demanding His disciples/followers to put into practice what they have learned from Him. In the section of today's text, Jesus is challenging His followers /disciples to be wise builders by practicing His teachings.

Hence our text of the day reads, "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" (Matthew 7:24-29).

In these verses Jesus was instructing his disciples /followers about the importance of practicing His teachings because there are outcomes for doing so or failure to do so. Specifically Jesus mentions the two builders, two foundations, same storm and two outcomes; and it is our choices that determine the ultimate outcome and destiny of our lives!

The premise for the concluding words of Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount is that, there is a solitary way to God - the way of the cross of Jesus Christ and practicing His teaching. Obedience to His teachings is an absolute requirement! Jesus has already declared, "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Now He approaches that same truth by the parabolic teaching of two builders, two foundations and two outcomes but the same storm. The ultimate outcome is that only one foundation will stand before the judgment of God - and that is the foundation laid in Jesus Christ.

### **3. Two Builders**

There are just two kinds of builders: the wise and the foolish. There is no any other category because your building has to do with a destiny based on choosing between the two paths. The narrow way with a small gate that lead to life and few that find it; the other is the broad or wide way with wide gate that leads to destruction and many that find it. How you build and upon what you build matters. The need of a solid foundation is imperative.

### **4. Two Foundations**

There are only two kinds of foundations upon which you can build: the solid rock or the sand. You are wise when you build on the rock as your foundation. It also follows that you are foolish when you build on the sand as your foundation. Definitely both houses on the two foundations will face the same storm. We are individuals with lots of differences but each person will go through the same storms in this life. You are in one, leaving one or getting into another storm.

### **5. The Same Storm**

The storm is the same. The storms of life are basically the same. Both, the wise and foolish builders face and go through the same storm. The storm is characterized by the rain coming down, the winds blowing and beating against the house, and the floods rising. All these elements of the storm expose the builder and his building to the danger of destruction. What manifest the difference between the outcomes of the storm are the foundations the builder used.

## **6. Two Outcomes**

**There are basically two outcomes. The house built by the wise man on the rock as a solid foundation did not fall down but stood firm after the storm; whereas the foolish man's building on the foundation of sand fell with a great crash.**

**Jesus in this concluding section of the Sermon on the Mount was sounding a strong warning about not receiving His teaching and practicing it. Practicing Jesus teaching is the foundation on which to build life. In life we shall definite face the storms of life which are the same. The storms come pouring as rain, with the winds of every doctrine blowing against the righteous life we are attempting to establish and the flood of sin rising to greater and greater heights daily with every generation. Unless we practice the teachings of Jesus Christ, we will be foolish and build our lives on the foundation of sand. Such a life is bound to crash with a great fall with the storms of life. But a life built on Christ and His teaching as a solid foundation, and its practice will and do stand the test of times through the storms of life.**

**The Sermon on the Mount concluded with the following words, "When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law" (Matthew 7:28-29). His teaching was convincing, bold, and full of authority because He is God and Omniscient. His teaching if practiced makes one wise in his choices in life to build on Him as the solid foundation.**

**Mt Traveler members, as we conclude today, the following are some main points to remember: The Sermon on the Mount is the most famous sermon Jesus ever gave and perhaps it is the most famous sermon ever given by anyone. In it Jesus taught us:**

- The Beatitudes – virtues in life which will ultimately lead to reward in this life and the life thereafter.**
- Using the metaphors of Salt and Light – to explain the roles of believers in the world**
- He has come to fulfill the Law**
- About sin of adultery which starts with lust in the heart**
- About divorce and remarriage**
- Oath and extension or amplification of taking oaths unnecessarily, so that your Yes is yes and No is no.**
- Forgiveness rather than retaliation (an eye for an eye, etc.)**
- To love our enemies**
- Right motive to three essentials of worship to receive reward from God**
- To store up treasures in heaven**
- Seek first His Kingdom and its righteousness and not to worry (or avoid distractions)**
- Not to judged or you too will be judged**
- Intensity of Prayers for Choice of the Gate to Enter the narrow gate and road to life**
- Watchfulness in Identifying False Individuals**
- To practice His teaching so we can be wise builders of life on Him as the solid foundation.**
- And let the church say, "Amen!"**

**Do you know this Jesus who transforms you to be truthful always? If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary,**

**and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to be always truthful to cause the continual growth of God's kingdom as you practice the Beatitudes. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!**

**If you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at [pastordatiri@mttraveler.org](mailto:pastordatiri@mttraveler.org)? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.**