

## The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

September 8, 2016

### Matthew 7:21-29 NASB

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.'

*Isn't prophesying, casting out demons and performing miracles doing the will of the Father in heaven?*

*Many mimic the actions and activities of a Christian by their own efforts, human methods, worldly wisdom, self-discipline and personal ambition. The result is an empty and powerless religion.*

*Obedience is much more than completing a checklist, and God's Word is much more than an instruction manual. Obedience is much more than the act. Obedience includes motive, method and power.*

*Obedience is a relationship of submission and abiding. God's Word is what brings us into that relationship of abiding.*

*John 15:5 NASB*

*5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

*"Every bunch of grapes have been first in the root, it has passed through the stem, and flowed through the sap vessels, and fashioned itself externally into fruit. But it was first in the stem; so also every good work was first in Christ, and then is brought forth in us."*

*Charles Spurgeon*

*Genuine fruit of obedience, born by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, is performed in God's timing, God's method, God's illumination and God's power. If it were as easy as completing a checklist or following an instruction manual, there would be no need for the Holy Spirit to illuminate, guide and empower.*

*Prophesying, casting out demons, and performing miracles is "lawlessness" when they are performed by self-determination and self-righteousness instead of surrendering to the work and flow of the Holy Spirit living through you.*

*If obedience is more than completing a checklist of religious activity, how does this set the stage for the following parable?*

### **Matthew 7:21-29 NASB**

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;

29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

## **THE INSPIRATION OF GOD'S WORD**

*A book is a collection of stories, ideas and information directed at the soul, stimulating the mind and moving the emotions.*

*The Bible is not like any other book. It stands alone in its uniqueness.*

*The Bible is God-inspired, or God-breathed. The words come from the very breath, heart and mind of God. God's Word is directed to the spirit of man, containing and transferring the life and power of God.*

### **2 Timothy 3:16 NASB**

16 **All Scripture is inspired** (*theopneustos - God-breathed, divinely inspired*) **by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

### **John 6:63 NASB**

63 **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

## **THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD**

*The study of God's Word is the preparation for meditating on God's Word, much like the preparation of food for eating.*

### **2 Timothy 2:15 NASB**

15 **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling** (*orthotomeō - rightly dividing, to cut straight*) **the word of truth.**

*Principles of Bible Study:*

1. *Illumination of the Holy Spirit*
2. *Context of the Passage*
3. *Historical and Cultural Context*
4. *Original Language of the Bible*
5. *Comparison, Contrast and Balance with other Bible Principles*

**Acts 17:10-11 NASB**

10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 **Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**

## THE MEDITATION OF GOD'S WORD

*The meditation of God's Word is the spiritual digestion of Biblical Truth, where the life, spiritual nourishment and conviction of the Word are extracted and absorbed. Our spirit is revived, our mind is renewed, our desires and affections are changed, our character and nature are transformed.*

**Jeremiah 15:16 NASB**

16 **Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;** For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

*The Bible cannot be read like any other book. Reading the Bible only to gain information and understanding is at best a waste, and can be spiritually dangerous.*

*The Bible has to be read for one and only one purpose: to know God and to hear His very voice speaking to you through what is written. The Word of God is not to transfer information. The Word of God is to bring us into relationship with the God revealed in the Bible.*

**Hebrews 8:10-11 NASB**

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts.** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

11 And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' **for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them.**

*Meditation on God's Word is where you hear your Father's voice speaking to you. That is when His nature, life and power are transferred into your spirit. That is when the Word of God is written upon the tables of your heart. That is when the Spirit of God leads you into Truth. That is when you are changed into His image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord. That is when faith is birthed and nurtured in your heart. That is when you will have victory over sin.*

**Proverbs 6:20-24 NASB**

20 My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother;

21 **Bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck.**

22 **When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk** (*siyach - talk, speak, commune, muse, declare, put forth, put forth thoughts*) **to you.**

23 **For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life**

24 **to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.**

**John 16:12-15 NASB**

12 I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 **But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

14 He will glorify Me, **for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.**

15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

## THE TRANSFORMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*Hearing God's voice speak to you, in His Word, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, conveys into your spirit the glory, presence and life of God. In that conveyance of life, we are transformed into His likeness, partakers of His divine nature, sin decreases and righteousness increases from glory to glory.*

### **2 Corinthians 3:2-18 NASB**

2 You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

3 **being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; **for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

7 **But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was,**

8 **how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?**

9 **For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.**

10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.

11 For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech,

13 and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

15 **But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart;**

16 **but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**

17 **Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

18 **But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

### **Matthew 16:16-18 NASB**

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus said to him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**"

18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and **upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.**"