

Lesson 10

Part 1: I Never Knew You

Jesus explained narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life. Many will try to pretend they have chosen the narrow gate but continue on the broad way. Some of these are so committed to their delusion that they play out the part of someone divinely motivated. Jesus taught that we could identify these wolves in sheep's clothing by their fruit. We pick up here in this week's lesson.

Read Matthew 7:21-23.

These are some of the most troubling verses in Scripture, causing some to question if they are really saved. Let's take the time to make sure we really understand what is being said.

1. Summarize Matthew 7:21-23 in your own words.

2. Who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven? (v.21)

3. What will be the claim of many on that day? (v. 22)

4. Now record the last seven words of verse 23 word for word.

The word *practice* here means to do, work out, exercise, perform, commit. The word *lawlessness* means to do iniquity, act wickedly, disregard for law, or evil deeds.

Read 1 John 3:4-9 and answer the following questions.

5. Fill in the blanks from verse 7. "He who practices _____

_____..."

6. According to verse 4, whoever commits (performs, practices) sin also commits (performs, practices) what?

7. What do you think it means to practice lawlessness, what about righteousness?

8. Why was God manifested to us on earth? (v. 5, 8)

9. What is true of the person who abides in Him? (v. 6)

10. Why does a person who is born of God not sin? (v. 9)

When we study Scripture, it is important to take in the whole counsel of God. These verses might make it sound like once you become a Christian you never sin again. Can you think of an example of someone from the Bible who was 100% committed to God, yet still sinned? David would be a perfect example of someone who loved the Lord with all his heart but still sinned on occasion.

Notice verse 7, "He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous." What if similar language was applied to verse 6? "Whoever abides in Him does not *practice* sin." *Practice* means the act of doing something over and over in a habitual manner. Someone committed to God does not and cannot go on practicing habitual sin. As true Christians, we can never be okay with habitual sin in our life. The struggle may remain, but we never give up and resolve ourselves to sin. We all wrestle with our flesh at times and sometimes we fail. However, as true followers of Jesus, we know sin is wrong and should never be comfortable with it in our lives.

Read 1 John 3:10-15 and answer the following questions.

11. In what two ways can we recognize those who are truly **not** of God? (v. 10)

12. What message has been given to Christ followers from the beginning? (v. 11)

13. Why did Cain murder his brother? (v. 12)

14. How can we know that we have passed from death to life in Jesus? (v. 14)

In this section of Scripture, John tells us the evidence of God and the Devil is manifested in their followers. God is manifested in His children through their obedience to Him and by their love and care for others. The Devil is manifested in his followers by habitual sin and hate.

Read 1 John 3:16-20 and answer the following questions.

15. How have we been taught to know true love? (v. 16)

16. How should Christ followers love? (v. 18)

17. Loving and caring for others is evidence of God abiding in us and us abiding in Him. What confidence should this bring? (v. 19)

18. What can we know in those times when our own hearts condemn us? (v. 20)

19. Going back to Matthew 7: 23, to whom will Jesus say, “Depart from Me...”?

20. Based on what we studied in 1 John 3, are you practicing lawlessness or righteousness in your life?

21. Having answered the last question, do you need to fear Jesus saying, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness?”

22. Write a prayer to God regarding what you have learned in this lesson.

Part 2: Build on the Rock

Jesus had reached the end of His sermon. Let’s go back and review what He laid out for His followers.

23. Go back to Matthew 5:3 -10 and complete the following:

Blessed are...

24. According to Matthew 5:13-16, Christ followers are called to be what?

25. In Matthew 5:17-20, Jesus points out that He came to fulfill the law. Those who will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven will do what? (v. 19)

26. What overriding principle was Jesus pointing out in Matthew 5:21-32?

27. According to Matthew 5:33-37, what should Christians not do? What should they do instead?

28. Summarize the main themes of Matthew 5:38-42 and Matthew 5:43-48.

29. In Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus instructs His followers to take heed and behave humbly when doing what three things?

30. Next, Jesus lays out three important choices His followers will need to make when it comes to what three things? (Matt. 6:19-24)

31. Summarize the main themes of Matthew 7:1-6 and Matthew 7:7-12.

At this point, Jesus concludes His character description of those who would follow after Him and turns His attention to the choice that lies before each and every person who encounters Jesus. He warns us that it is a narrow and difficult way. We will need to guard ourselves against being deceived by false prophets and outward appearances. We will also need to be careful to not be deceived in thinking we can gain our own access to the Kingdom of Heaven without knowing and following after Jesus.

Now, let us look at the final picture Jesus paints for His followers.

Read Matthew 7:24-29 and then read Luke 6:46-49.

Notice how the Luke passage ties the calling “Me ‘Lord, Lord’” and “not doing the things I say” together.

32. What point was Jesus trying to make here?

33. In this illustration, we have two men, two houses, two foundations and one storm. What similarities do you see between the two men? What did they both want?

34. Look again at Luke 6:48 and record how these two men were different.

Both men wanted the same type of house in the same location but one man dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock, while the other built his house without a foundation.

35. What did Jesus call the man who dug deep and built his house on a foundation?

36. What characteristics do you think contributed to his wisdom?

37. Read the following verses and record what you learn about wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 13:1

Proverbs 13:10

James 3:13

38. What did Jesus call the man who built his house without a foundation?

39. What characteristics do you think contributed to his foolishness?

40. Read the following verses and record what you learn about foolishness.

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 19:3

Proverbs 28:26

Romans 1:22

Now consider how this illustration relates to Jesus' sermon.

41. How would a person desiring the love and blessings of God respond to Jesus' sermon with wisdom?

42. How would a person desiring the love and blessing of God respond to Jesus' sermon with foolishness?

43. What do you think would be the motive of each of these men?

Just as these two men wanted similar things like a house in the same location, there will be people in the church who want similar things. Everyone typically wants the assurance that they are not going to Hell. Most are also interested in things like forgiveness, peace, comfort, etc. At the same time, some also want to be left to live their lives as they please (building their home on the sand). They want all the benefits of Jesus without changing their behavior. Following Jesus is a commitment to leave the world behind and to enter the Kingdom of Heaven via the narrow gate. It is to choose the difficult way, to deny oneself, and to **hear and obey** what the Lord says. This is the man who digs deep and builds his new home on the foundation of Jesus. Therefore, we have come full circle and are back to Jesus' point about being careful that we are not deceived into thinking we are truly following Him when we are not practicing righteousness.

Jesus warns us to inspect our build sites now, before it is too late. Hear and obey these things He has taught us through His Sermon on the Mount.

44. Detail the aftermath of the storm for each of these men.

45. In closing, ask yourself, what is it you desire? Do you desire only the benefits of God, or do you desire to truly follow after Him? Journal your response.

46. Go back and review questions 23-30 and make note of any areas the Holy Spirit puts on your heart where you are refusing to surrender. Pray and record how the Spirit is leading you moving forward. Purpose to pray about these things in the coming weeks.
