Matthew 7:15-29

- **Review…**
  - The Sermon of the King…
    - The LONGEST public teaching recorded in the New Testament - **Matthew 5-7**
    - Teaching disciples – those who want to learn – how to be CITIZENS of the KINGDOM of God…
    - Beginning with the Beatitudes – Jesus established we are POOR in Spirit…
    - And knowing that is what allows us to be a Citizen of the Kingdom – because it drives us to Jesus!
  - Relationship with God
    - Jesus went on to define how to LIVE as a CITIZEN – how to RELATE to God…
    - We are to GIVE in secret – because it shows a heart for God…
    - We are not to PRAY in secret – talking to God – not to be seen by men…
    - We must FORGIVE everyone – everything – every time – just as we were forgiven…
    - We are to store up our treasures in HEAVEN – so we have a HEART for God…
    - We are NOT to WORRY – because we have this PROMISE God FIRST will give us what we NEED!
  - Relationship with Others…
    - We are NOT to judge the MOTIVES of others…
    - If we do want to HELP – make sure we know the answer to our SIN first [take out the spec]
    - And do NOT try and help those who do NOT want help [dogs and pigs]
    - We must also ASK – SEEK – KNOCK – so our Father in Heaven gives us His Holy Spirit…
    - So that we can do unto others [LOVE] – what we want them to do to us…
    - Then we can show them the NARROW path – that leads to Heaven!
- **1st – False Prophets… vs. 15-20**
  - 1st – Not from God… vs. 15
    - Beware…
      - Beware of false prophets!
      - Having told His Disciples how they must LOVE one another - Jesus gives them a WARNING…
      - They must [imperative] always [present] watch out for FALSE prophets….
      - FALSE prophets [ψευδοπροφήτης] – LYING [ψευδής] prophets [προφήτης]!
      - Israel had a LONG history of FALSE prophets – who came to DECEIVE the people…
      - King Jehoshaphat of Judah went to visit King Ahab of Israel - **I Kings 22:4-8**
      - Ahab wanted Jehoshaphat to join him in going to battle against Syria…
      - Jehoshaphat wisely asked if they could seek the Lord for advice…
      - Ahab agreed and called FOUR hundred prophets – all of whom promised VICTORY in battle…
      - One of the prophets even made horns of iron prophesying victory – VERY dramatic…
      - But the men were NOT prophets of God – they were all FALSE prophets…
      - There was only one TRUE prophet in Israel – Micaiah [note the ratio – 400:1]
      - But Ahab did not like Micaiah – because he always brought BAD news!
      - People rarely want to hear the TRUTH – because the TRUTH hurts…
      - They do NOT want to hear about sin - judgment – they would rather be ENTERTAINED…
      - That is why many churches only talk about HAPPY topics – no HURT feelings…
      - Because churches are more interested in filling the SEATS – than making SAINTS!
    - Look like SHEEP…
      - Who come to you in sheep clothing!
      - We might ASSUME - we could easily recognize a FALSE teacher from faraway…
      - But FALSE teachers do not announce their entrance – they look like SHEEP…
      - Because they are like their MASTER - who looks like an Angel of light – **II Corinthians 11:14**

- The impression most have of satan is a red horned - pitchfork wielding - ugly monster…
- But that description actually comes from the god Pan in Greek mythology...
- Satan is not ugly - God created him as the perfection of beauty - **Ezekiel 28:12**
- Likely satan spread this LIE about himself - so people would NOT recognize him!
- Likewise – FALSE teachers will imitate Godly men – they will LOOK like the real Pastors!

▪ Hungry Wolves…
- But inwardly they are ravenous wolves!
- On the INSIDE – FALSE teachers are WOLVES who want to ROB [ravenous] the believers!
- The imagery is dynamic – a WOLF [predator] walking among the SHEEP [prey]
- And just as a WOLF has NO interest in HELPING sheep – they only want to CONSUME them…
- So also FALSE teachers are NOT there to HELP the saints – they want to take from them!
- **II Peter 2:3** - "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words."

▪ After the Money…
- The MOTIVE of FALSE teachers is the MONEY – they see the church as a way to get RICH…
- They use DECEPTIVE [carefully molded] words – like an artist they form their LIES…
- To EXPLOIT [ἐμπορεύομαι] us – where we get the word EMPORIUM - market…
- They use their WORDS to try and make us into their BUSINESS!
- Churches are to be a place where people come to LEARN about the Lord...
- Instead FALSE teachers tell us about a God who only WANTS our MONEY...
- Giving people the idea that Jesus is just another SCAM - a way to make a MONEY…
- But God does not want or need our MONEY – He is the creator of Heaven and Earth!

o 2nd – Their Fruit… vs. 16-18

▪ How to Know… vs. 16
- You will know them by their fruits!
- How we spot a FALSE teacher – we look at their LIVES…
- Because we will KNOW [ἐπιγινώσκω] them – by their FRUIT [works]
- Recall – we are told we are NOT to JUDGE one another [motives] – **Matthew 7:1**
- But we are absolutely called to JUDGE their FRUIT [works]!
- A person can be a gifted SPEAKER – even a powerful TEACHER…
- But words are EASY – the question is what do we see from their LIFE…
- We need to be FRUIT inspectors – and check to make sure we see Jesus!

▪ Good and Bad… vs. 16-18
- Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?
- Even so - every good tree bears good fruit - but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
- A good tree cannot bear bad fruit - nor can a bad tree bear good fruit!
- It is easy to tell what kind of TREE – by looking at the FRUIT…
- A thornbush will NOT have grapes – and thistles will NOT have figs…
- In the same way EVERY [πᾶς] GOOD [ἀγαθός] person - will have GOOD [καλός] fruit…
- GOOD person [ἀγαθός] – speaks of INTERNAL goodness that comes from God…
- GOOD fruit [καλός] – speaks of EXTERNAL goodness that is the result of what is INSIDE…
- And a BAD [σαπρός] person will be known by their BAD [πονηρός] fruit…
- BAD person [σαπρός] – speaks of INTERNAL corruption – they are rotten on the inside…
- BAD fruit [πονηρός] – speaks of EXTERNAL evil that is the results of what is INSIDE…
- That is why a GOOD [ἀγαθός] person cannot have BAD [πονηρός] fruit…
- And a BAD [σαπρός] person – cannot have GOOD [καλός] fruit!
- **Luke 6:45** – "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

- If a tree has a SIGN that said – MANGOS…

- But we clearly see there are APPLES growing on the branches…
- Then regardless of what the sign SAYS – it is for sure an APPLE tree!
- The point is POWERFUL – FRUIT does NOT lie…
- No matter what a person SAYS – they can CLAIM to be a Pastor…
- But all we have to do is look at their FRUIT – and we will see if what they say is TRUE!

o 3rd – Their Fate… vs. 19-20
  - Into the Fire… vs. 19
    - Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
    - Therefore by their fruits you will know them!
    - A tree that does not have GOOD [καλός] fruit – had lost its purpose…
    - Therefore - it is CUT down [present] – and used for FIRE wood…
    - The IMAGERY is unmistakable – it tells us the FUTURE of these FALSE teachers…
    - They will NOT make it to Heaven – they will end up in Hell!
  - Careful who we follow…
    - THEREFORE – we must make sure to KNOW [ἐπιγινώσκω] them by their FRUIT!
    - **Philippians 3:17-19** - "They are enemies of the cross of Christ. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite... all they think about is this life here on earth."
    - We need to be careful who we FOLLOW – look to see where they are GOING…
    - Just because a LOT of people are attending – does not make it RIGHT – **Matthew 7:13**
    - Sadly – there are MEGA churches – THOUSANDS of members…
    - Who are following FALSE teachers [prosperity gospel] – to their DESTRUCTION!
    - **II Peter 2:2** – "Many will follow their destructive ways!"

- **2ND – FALSE CHRISTIANS… VS. 21-23**

o 1st – Not just Words… vs. 21
  - Our Words…
    - Not everyone who says to Me – Lord – Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven!
    - Not ALL [πᾶς] who call [future] Jesus MASTER [κύριος] – 2x for emphasis
    - Will be allowed into the KINGDOM – meaning WORDS alone CANNOT save us!
    - Is it enough just to call Jesus Lord - if we raise our hands at an alter call – are we SAVED …
    - The answer – that is PART of it – the Bible says we must CONFESS with our MOUTH…
    - But it also adds we also must BELIEVE in our HEART!
    - **Romans 10:9** – "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus AND believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead - you will be saved."
  - Our Actions…
    - But he who does the will of My Father in heaven [shall enter the kingdom of heaven]
    - The person who DOES [participle] the will of FATHER – is SAVED…
    - It is NOT just about what we SAY – it is about what we DO…
    - Because we cannot SEE our heart – so how do we KNOW if we BELIEVE…
    - The answer is look at the FRUIT – that comes from our HEART!
    - **James 2:17** – "Faith by itself - if it does not have [fruit] - is dead."
    - We can SAY we are SAVED – but the evidence needs to be in our LIVES…
    - Coming to CHURCH on Sunday – and having a Bible app on our phone – does NOT save us…
    - Raising our hand in an emotional moment – is NOT enough – we must also BELIEVE…
    - And if we want to KNOW what is in our HEART – either GOOD [ἀγαθός] or BAD [σαπρός]
    - All we have to do is look at the FRUIT that comes from our lives…
    - FRUIT does not LIE – we KNOW who we are by our FRUIT!

o 2nd – Depart from me… vs. 22-23
  - Good Works… vs. 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!
- MANY will plead with God on THE day [White Throne] – **Revelation 20:12**
- They had FRUIT – they did DO things for the Lord [κύριος] – 2x for emphasis
- They PROPHESIED [aorist] in His Name – they knew His WORD…
- They CAST [aorist] out demons in His Name – they knew His AUTHORITY – **Luke 10:17**
- The did many WONDERS [aorist] in His Name – they knew His POWER [δύναμις]
- But the one thing they did not KNOW [γινώσκω] – was Jesus!

▪ Never knew you… vs. 23

- I will declare to them - I never knew you. Depart from Me - you who practice lawlessness!
- Jesus will say [ὁμολογέω] to them – He NEVER [not even once] knew [γινώσκω] them…
- The PROOF they did NOT know Jesus – they were workers [participle] of INIQUITY…
- INIQUITY [ἀνομία] – to live a life that does NOT follow the LAW [νόμος] of God!
- This has to be one of the most terrifying verses in the Bible…
- To think there will be MANY people who THINK they are saved…
- Because they KNOW about Jesus – His WORD – His AUTHORITY – His POWER…
- They are even DOING the right things [religion] – but they do NOT know Jesus…
- This is why we talk so much about having a RELATIONSHIP [γινώσκω] with God!
- We can SAY we are Christians – we can even be RELIGIOUS...
- But are our lives after we BELIEVE in Jesus DIFFERENT…
- Do we live in willful SIN [ἀνομία] - ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit...
- Or are we running to Jesus - seeking His GRACE to transform us – bearing good FRUIT…
- If we are wondering where our WALK with the Lord is – we should EXAMINE ourselves!
- **II Corinthians 13:5 –** "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves - that Jesus Christ is in you."

- **3RD – BUILT ON THE ROCK… VS. 24-29**
  - 1st – Wise Man… vs. 24-25
    - Doers of the Word… vs. 24
      - Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine - and does them!
      - THEREFORE – knowing salvation is seen in both WORDS and ACTIONS [fruit]
      - ANYONE [πᾶς] who HEARS and DOES [present] what Jesus says [λόγος]
      - **James 1:22** – "Be doers of the word - and not hearers only."
      - There are two ways that we can approach the Bible…
      - It can either be an INSTRUCTION manual – or it can be a MIRROR…
      - The person who does not OBEY the INSTRUCTIONS – treats the Bible like a MIRROR!
      - We can nod our head in agreement – or FEEL touched by a Bible study…
      - But if we are NOT doing what the Bible tells us…
      - We are like someone who sees their reflection in a MIRROR…
      - Only to walk away and chose to FORGET what we SAW – and NOT change!
    - Immovable… vs. 24-25
      - I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.
      - 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!

      - But the one who LISTENS and DOES [present] - will be [future] like a WISE man…
      - Who built his house upon the ROCK [πέτρα]
      - When [not if] the STORM came [wind and waves] – the house did NOT fall…

- Because it was FOUNDED [pluperfect] - on the ROCK [Jesus]!
- We will NEVER fall when we choose to make Jesus our FOUNDATION…
- That does not mean things will always turn out the way we expect…
- But we can be absolutely certain – that whatever happens – we are UNSHAKABLE!

o 2nd – Foolish Man… vs. 26-27
  - Built on sand…
    - 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.
    - And the rain descended - the floods came - and the winds blew and beat on that house.
    - And it fell. And great was its fall!
    - ANYONE [πᾶς] who HEARS and does NOT [present] do what Jesus says [λόγος]
    - Will be like [future] a FOOLISH [μωρός] man – who built his house on SAND…
    - And when [not if] the STORM came [wind and waves] – the house FELL – a [μέγας] fall…
    - Because it was NOT built upon the ROCK [Jesus]!
  - The choice…
    - 2013 Typhoon Yolanda [Haiyan] hit Leyte with wind speeds over 315 kilometers per hour…
    - We were on the ground TWO days after the storm tore through…
    - There were house without roofs – roofs without houses [blew off]
    - People were desperate – as others selfishly overcharging their neighbors for essentials…
    - And the government was only handing out handfuls of old rice…
    - But those who put their TRUST in Jesus – saw miracles as God provided for them!
    - EVERYONE will have to go through STORMS in life - TOUGH times…
    - The question of whether or not we make it through – depends on our FOUNDATION…
    - As we come to the END of the SERMON of the KING – here is the question…
    - We are POOR in Spirit – but so we see our POVERTY and come to Jesus…
    - Where do we put our TREASURES – are we investing in this LIFE or eternal LIFE…
    - Do we just LISTEN to the Bible study – or do we CHOSE to be DOERS…
    - What choices we make – decide if we are WISE of FOOLISH…
    - This is how we CHOSE if we build our lives on the SAND or on the ROCK!

o 3rd – Teaching with Authority… vs. 28-29
  - So it was - when Jesus had ended these sayings - that the people were astonished at His teaching.
  - For He taught them as one having authority - and not as the scribes!
  - When Jesus finished His teaching – the Sermon of the King…
  - The people were [imperfect] ASTONISHED at His teaching…
  - ASTONISHED [ἐκπλήσσω] – like someone slapping [passive] you in the face…
  - Because He taught them as one who had POWER [ἐξουσία] – not like the SCRIBES!
  - People will always have ideas about how to have a blessed LIFE – eternal LIFE…
  - But people can never teach with AUTHORITY – because they do NOT know…
  - That is what makes the WORD special – the Sermon on the Mount unique…
  - It is God telling those who are willing to LISTEN [disciples]
  - How to be SAVED – how to RELATE to God – and how we are to RELATE to each other…
  - It is the teaching on how to be a CITIZEN of His KINGDOM!