

THE RED LETTER LECTURES

NOTES

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Jesus' Teaching on Wise and Foolish Builders
Matthew 7:24-28

I. A Wise Man

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. 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. — Mt. 7:24-25

A. *hears . . . and puts them into practice . . .*

1. Faith comes by hearing the word of God.
See Rom. 10:17.
2. Obedience is evidenced by doing the word of God. *See Jas. 1:22-25.*
3. What is the goal of our faith?
 - a. To please our Lord. *See 2 Cor. 5:9.*
 - b. To express our love to Him. *See 1 Jn. 5:2-4.*
 - c. To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
See the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

B. *that house . . . did not fall . . .*

1. What is the first part of a house that is built?
2. How important is a solid foundation to the longevity and integrity of the house?
3. In this analogy, what is the foundation?
4. What is the house?

Read Boice, pp. 264-74.

Rom. 10:17: Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Jas. 1:22-25: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

2 Cor. 5:9: So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

1 Jn. 5:2-4: This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

C. *had its foundation on the rock . . .*

1. The Rock of Israel. See *Gen. 49:24-25*.
2. The Rock is Christ. See *Exo. 17:6*;
1 Cor. 10:1-4.
3. Daniel's vision. See *Dan. 2:45*.

II. A Foolish Man

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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." — *Mt. 7:26-27*

A. *does not put them into practice . . .*

1. This is called disobedience. See *Tit. 1:15-16*.
2. What following Christ has done for us in this regard:

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. — *Tit. 3:3-7*

III. The Authority of the Teacher

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. — *Mt. 7:28-29*

A. *taught as one who had authority . . .*

1. The power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others. See *Mt. 28:18*.

NOTES

Gen. 49:24-25: But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and womb.

Exo 17:6: I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1 Cor. 10:1-4: For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Dan. 2:45: This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

Tit. 1:15-16: To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Mt. 28:18: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

IV. A Summary of the Imperative Commands in this study.

- A. An Imperative Command is a verb form that expresses action which is to be realized by the exercise of the will of one person upon that of another.²⁴ In the Sermon on the Mount and other teachings, it reflects the expressed will of Jesus to His followers.
- B. The Imperative is the mood of command—the mood of volition. It is the genius of the imperative to express the appeal of will to will. In ordinary linguistic communication the primary appeal is from intellect to intellect, but in the imperative one will address another.²⁵
- C. Everything Jesus taught and spoke is of absolute importance to the believer. However, Jesus emphasized and appears to have placed more importance on some things than others. The Imperative Command introduces these subjects of most importance and is always followed by the context.
- D. This understanding is critical to the discipleship process as Imperative Commands are the very instructions Jesus charged His followers to obey. See *Mt. 28: 19-20*.
- E. Imperative Commands in our study identified by capital letters and asterisk.
1. Therefore **GO*** and **MAKE DISCIPLES*** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. — *Mt. 28:19*
 2. And **SURELY*** I am with you always, to the very end of the age." — *Mt. 28:20b*
 3. **REJOICE*** and **BE GLAD***, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. — *Mt. 5:12*
 4. In the same way, **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE*** before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. — *Mt. 5:16*

NOTES

²⁴Summers, *Essentials of New Testament Greek*, p. 112.

²⁵Dana and Mantey, *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, pp. 174-75.

Mt. 28:19-20: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

NOTES

5. **DO NOT THINK*** that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. — Mt. 5:17
6. “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has some thing against you, **LEAVE YOUR GIFT*** there in front of the altar. First **GO*** and **BE RECONCILED*** to your brother; then come and offer your gift. — Mt. 5:23-24
7. **SETTLE MATTERS QUICKLY*** with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. — Mt. 5:25
8. If your right eye causes you to sin, **GOUGE IT OUT*** and **THROW IT AWAY***. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. — Mt. 5:29
9. And if your right hand causes you to sin, **CUT IT OFF*** and **THROW IT AWAY***. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. — Mt. 5:30
10. But I tell you, **DO NOT SWEAR*** at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. — Mt. 5:34-36
11. Simply **LET*** your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. — Mt. 5:37
12. But I tell you, **DO NOT RESIST*** an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, **TURN*** to him the other also. — Mt. 5:39
13. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, **LET*** him have your cloak as well. — Mt. 5:40

NOTES

14. If someone forces you to go one mile, **GO*** with him two miles. — Mt. 5:41
15. But I tell you: **LOVE*** your enemies and **PRAY*** for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. — Mt. 5:44
16. **BE CAREFUL*** not to do your "acts of righteousness" before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. — Mt. 6:1
17. So when you give to the needy, **DO NOT ANNOUNCE*** it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. — Mt. 6:2
18. But when you give to the needy, **DO NOT LET*** your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. — Mt. 6:3-4
19. And when you pray, **DO NOT BE*** like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. — Mt. 6:5
20. But when you pray, **GO INTO YOUR ROOM***, close the door and **PRAY TO YOUR FATHER***, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. — Mt. 6:6
21. And when you pray, **DO NOT KEEP*** on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **DO NOT BE*** like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. — Mt. 6:7-8
22. This, then, is how **YOU SHOULD PRAY***: Our Father in heaven, **HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME***, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have

NOTES

- forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
— Mt. 6:9-13
23. When you fast, **DO NOT LOOK SOBER*** as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, **PUT OIL ON*** your head and **WASH YOUR FACE***, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. — Mt. 6:16-18
24. **DO NOT STORE UP*** for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **STORE UP*** for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. — Mt. 6:19-21
25. Therefore I tell you, **DO NOT WORRY*** about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? **LOOK*** at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? — Mt. 6:25-27
26. And why do you worry about clothes? **SEE HOW*** the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.
— Mt. 6:28-29
27. But **SEEK FIRST*** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore **DO NOT WORRY*** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
— Mt. 6:33-34

NOTES

28. **DO NOT JUDGE***, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. — Mt. 7:1-2
29. **DO NOT GIVE*** dogs what is sacred; **DO NOT THROW*** your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces. — Mt. 7:6
30. **ASK*** and it will be given to you; **SEEK*** and you will find; **KNOCK*** and the door will be opened to you. — Mt. 7:7
31. So in everything, **DO*** to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. — Mt. 7:12
32. **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. — Mt. 7:13-14
33. **WATCH OUT*** for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. — Mt. 7:15