

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme:** *Christ the King*

**Outline:**

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

**Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)**

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

The whole OT looks forward to the coming of the Messianic KING who would come to be deliverer and reign over His people. Matthew sets out to show us that Jesus is this prophesied/promised coming Messiah. He presents several lines of evidence beginning with His LEGAL right to the throne as seen in His genealogical credentials. Then he shows us His MORAL right to the throne in that He overcame everything Satan had to throw at Him in a special time of temptation. And then in Matt. 5-7 we see Christ’s JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in His unparalleled profound teaching.

Jesus began His ministry with a call to repentance saying, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” (Mt. 4:17). The way into the kingdom is through repentance.

That was followed up in Matt. 5-7 by showing what true repentance looks like in the lives of the true followers of Christ. This is commonly called, “**The Sermon on the Mount**” which some have called “**The Greatest Sermon Ever Given.**”

In this sermon Christ contrasts the outward ritualistic – legalistic – hypocritical righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees with that which He called for – which is righteous living borne out of true repentance. Christ emphasized right living that flows from a changed heart. This is characteristic of those who will inherit the kingdom.

Some evade the application of the sermon. They say, “This teaching is Jewish and not for the church”; or “This counsel of perfection is impractical”; or “This is the rule of conduct for Christ’s future kingdom.” – **John Phillips**

We cannot lightly dismiss this sermon, for it is God who gave it to us! We must either bow before Him and submit to His authority, or we will be condemned. – **Warren Wiersbe**

We must keep in mind that the key interpretive verse of the entire Sermon on the Mount is found in Matt. 5:20 which certainly has application for us today.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)**

- **20** For I say to you, that unless **your righteousness** exceeds the **righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

In Matt. 7:24-27 Christ is illustrating the results of applying His teaching versus those who refuse to do so. The Discourse shows what the obedience of faith looks like in the life and hence the righteousness that exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees. In view is a hearing response (saving faith) that results in obeying versus a hearing response that refuses to obey and thus will not stand.

Christ is emphasizing the reality of a FAITH that WORKS. He describes the nature of a saving faith when He says in 5:3, “**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**” In other words, a true saving faith response involves humbling yourself. You can’t get in through pride. In 5:8 He says, “**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**” A saving faith is honest to God (pure in that sense) in contrast to the religious deception and hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

**Slide # 3*****Wrong View***

Faith + Works = Salvation

***Correct View***

Faith = Salvation + Works

Works are the evidence or the fruit of true faith, but works are not a meritorious basis for our salvation. They are simply the outflow of a living faith. As James says, “***faith without works is dead***” (Ja. 2:20, 26).

While salvation is by faith alone it must be the right kind of faith. It must be the kind of faith that exhibits itself in a changed life. It must be a repentant faith, - a life-changing faith, a faith that works. That’s Christ’s MAIN point here at the end of the Sermon.

All the way through Christ is emphasizing an internal faith that recognizes His authority – that is His Lordship which in turn alters the life. That’s what this sermon is about. It’s about His LORDSHIP AUTHORITY and living accordingly.

Christ all the way through instructs us how to live and He speaks with the authority of God. A true repentant faith recognizes Him as Lord/God and lives accordingly. That is the kind of righteousness that will enter the kingdom. That is His point in saying it is not enough to merely say, “***Lord, Lord***” but only those who actually know Him as Lord as demonstrated in doing the will of the Father will enter the kingdom. This mirrors Christ saying at the end of chapter 7 that whoever hears His sayings and does them is likened to a wise man who builds his house on the rock.

The sermon formally ends at Matt. 7:12 which is then followed up by 4 challenges or warnings which call for a commitment of allegiance to Him. Christ shows what is to be characteristic of His people and then in effect calls for people align with His teaching which begins with repentant faith. Christ brings all those listening to the point of decision.

**Slide # 4**

**Matt. 7:13-27 – FOUR WARNINGS**

- Two gates – two paths (vv. 13-14).
- Two trees – two kinds of fruit (vv. 15-20).
- Two professions – talkers & doers (vv. 21-23).
- Two builders – two foundations (vv. 24-27).

In each case Christ is calling for a life-changing commitment that recognizes Him as Lord. And it builds. First there is the reality of two ways; then the issue of fruit tells which way one is going; and then point blank Christ shows the KEY issue is one of LORDSHIP. There are those that will profess Him to be their Lord but in truth they don't do the will of the Father and are shown to be those "*who practice lawlessness.*" They are all religious and say the right thing, but their lifestyle practice is really one of SELF-RULE instead of being governed by Christ's LORDSHIP.

I noted last time that it is uncanny how Christ's warning about these religious hypocrites so closely mirrors so much of what is aberrant in the Charismatic circles. Certainly, there is application beyond this movement and not all in the Charismatic movement "practice lawlessness". Still, the things Christ's brings out do have special application to the Charismatic movement generally.

### **Slide # 5**

- Prophecy
- Casting out Demons
- Signs and Wonders

Christ says on judgment day MANY who do these things will say "Lord Lord" to Him and seek to make their case about how in His name they prophesied, cast out demons, and did many wonders (lit powers) only to hear Him say, "***I never knew you; depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.***"

And that brings us to the fourth and final wrap up warning.

### **Matthew 7:24–29 (NKJV)**

**24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:**

The "***Therefore***" ties back to and builds on what Christ has said in the sermon. Christ addresses these words to "***whoever hears these sayings of Mine***". This relates to those who have HEARD! They know what Christ said and now the issue is how are they going to respond.

The sayings of Christ evidently refers to the contents in the whole previous sermon as seen in Matt. 5-7. Note this parallel.

### **Slide # 6**

v. 21 “...**does the will** of My Father in heaven.”

v. 24 “...hears these sayings of Mine, and **does them**”

Christ puts the doing His sayings on the same exact level as doing the will of the Father. In both cases the issue is linked with having a place in the kingdom as noted by the word “Therefore”. This clearly shows that Christ’s words and God’s will coincide as one and the same. And it shows us that Jesus is God in that His words carry the same authority as those of God the Father.

A major theme in Jesus’ ministry is “**hearing**” in the sense of appropriation. After giving the parable of the Sower and the soils in which only the good ground yields a crop (representing those who are saved) – Christ then gives this challenge.

### **Slide # 7**

**Matthew 13:9 (NKJV)**

**9** He who has ears to **hear**, let him **hear!**”

**Matthew 13:23 (NKJV)**

**23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who **hears** the word and understands it, who indeed **bears fruit** and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

In the prophetic Scriptures the Messiah is One Who comes with authority and the true followers are those who hear and respond with obedience.

### **Slide # 8**

**Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)**

**10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until **Shiloh** [the One to Whom it belongs] comes; And **to Him shall be the obedience of the people.**

### **Slide # 9**

**Deuteronomy 18:18–19 (NKJV)**

**18** I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

**19** And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

**Hearing** followed by **doing** are indicative of true faith. We are not saved by the doing, but we are saved by a hearing response that truly believes and if it is real, it then shows in the life – not perfectly but certainly.

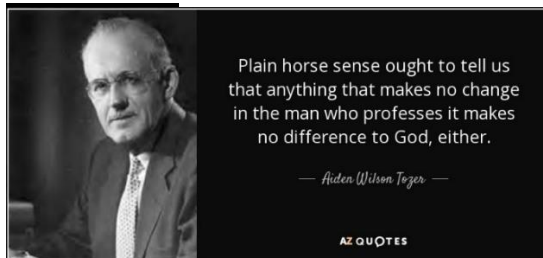
**Slide # 10****John 3:36 (ESV)**

**36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

**Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)**

**9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who **obey** him,

We are saved by grace alone (the cross) through faith alone, but the faith that saves desires to obey. The fruit of true faith is obedience. That is Christ's MAJOR point here at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

**Slide # 11**

Christ says those who hear His sayings and do them are like **“a wise man who built his house on the rock”**.

The house represents a person's life and what they build on is the foundation. The great issue being illustrated is that which a person builds their life upon. **“Each house represents a life founded on a governing principle.”** (Stanley Toussaint). That is the all-important issue! The wise person builds on the rock of Christ's Lordship and His sayings. The rock is the Lordship of Christ and if Christ is truly recognized as Lord it will be demonstrated in obedience – doing His sayings. Obedience and Lordship go together.

In the Bible Christ is often spoken of as the ROCK – both prophetically in the OT as well as symbolically in the NT (cf. Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor. 10:4; 1 Pet. 2:6-8).

### **Slide # 12**

#### **Matthew 21:42–44 (NKJV)**

**42** Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: [In Ps. 118] ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? ...

**44** And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

Falling on the stone represents the brokenness of repentance described in the Sermon on the Mount. Those not repentant will be crushed in judgment by the Rock that is Christ.

### **Slide # 13**

#### **Daniel 2:34 (NKJV)**

**34** You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

#### **Daniel 2:45 (NKJV)**

**45** Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

Christ is the ROCK and the wise man has Him and His sayings as the foundation for his life. In the Bible you really can’t separate God from His Word. What you think of one you think of the other. Faith personally recognizes the truth of God’s Word, submits to it, and rests upon it.

### **Slide # 14**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV)**

**11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The only real lasting foundation that one can build upon is Jesus Christ the ROCK! Apart from Christ all is vanity and a person is really building on nothing – nothing that will ultimately last (cf. Eccl. 1).

When the testing of life's foundation comes, only those who have responded properly to Christ's teachings will stand. – **Ed Glasscock**

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV)**

**15** And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

**16** and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

**17** For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

### **Slide # 16**

#### **Revelation 7:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

**10** and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

#### **Revelation 7:13–14 (NKJV)**

**13** Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

**14** And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

The wise person builds his life upon the ROCK foundation that is the Lord Jesus Christ – Who is Lord and Savior to all who believe in Him. And then Christ said...



**25 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.**

The storm represents the testing times culminating in the ultimate testing of judgment day before God. That which is founded on the ROCK endures! A true faith is characterized by obedience to Christ and is found standing in the end.

We all struggle. James says to believers, “***we all stumble in many things.***” (Ja. 3:2). Yet, it is also true that true faith perseveres – by the grace of God it keeps on keeping on. A true faith consistently desires to obey God and even in failure down deep wants to obey (cf. Rom. 7:15). The believer has a new nature and this new nature being wed to the Holy Spirit always desires to obey Christ (2 Pet. 1:4). We still have the flesh (the old sin nature) and so we do struggle, but down deep the new man desires to obey. And the end result of this is that true believers have a persevering faith (Gal. 5:17).

### **Slide # 17**

#### **Colossians 1:21–23 (NKJV)**

**21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

**22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

**23** **if indeed you continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are **not moved away** from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**26 “But 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:**

In contrast to the wise man who builds on the truth of Christ is the foolish person who builds his life’s house on the sand. By outward appearances it may look good but there is a FOUNDATIONAL problem. The foolish person hears what Christ has to say but he doesn’t build on that. He may profess to high heaven, but he doesn’t really OBEY Christ. He doesn’t really have a heart sold out to Christ. Christ isn’t really His LORD!

The hypocritical professor cries “Lord, Lord” and yet lives out a pattern of disobedience and therefore will hear the Lord say, “***I never knew you; depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.***” (Mt. 7:23)

**Slide # 18****1 John 2:3–4 (NKJV)****3** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**4** He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

The evidence of true faith is obedience. Again, we are not talking about perfection in the life but rather direction. A true faith as a way of life desires to obey. It recognizes Christ as Lord and that shows in the life.

**Slide # 19****1 John 3:7–8 (NKJV)****7** Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.**8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

It is altogether doubtful whether any man can be saved who comes to Christ for His help but with no intention to obey Him. – **A.W. Tozer**

The person who builds his life on the sand does things his own way. Instead of building on what Christ has to say, he follows his own thinking. His theme song is “I did it my way”. This person may be religious, but his life is driven by self-righteous pride as was characteristically exhibited in the scribes and Pharisees.

This is reminiscent of Cain and Abel. These two brothers both brought an offering of worship to the Lord. Abel did it God’s way bringing the prescribed lamb offering. Cain did it his way bringing a fruit offering not prescribed by God and then was upset because God didn’t accept it (cf. Gen. 4). Only that which aligns with God’s way is acceptable to God.

**Slide # 20****John 12:46–48 (NKJV)****46** I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.**47** And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

**48** He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

The sand represents Pharisaic righteousness instead of the righteousness based on faith in Christ which is demonstrated in obedience to His word. Building on the ROCK foundation involves hearing and obeying Jesus. The lawless life that is self-oriented rests on a foundation which in the end proves to be no lasting foundation at all.

The sand is composed of human opinions, attitudes, and wills, which are always shifting and always unstable. To build on sand is to build on self-will, self-fulfillment, self-purpose, self-sufficiency, self-satisfaction, and self-righteousness. To build on sand is to be unteachable, to be “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7). To build the house of one’s life on the sand is to follow the ultimate deception of Satan, which is to make a person believe he is saved when he is not.

– *John MacArthur*

**27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”**

When the storms of testing come to the builder who hears but does not obey, the house they built will not be able to stand. That which is built on sand shall not stand.

And Jesus said, “**And great was its fall.**” It is a total loss.

The sayings of men are a foundation of sand on which the foolish build. The philosophies of eastern mystics and the dogmas of Roman pontiffs appeal to many. Principles of Mormonism, psychology, social science, humanism, Darwinism, or Marxism appeal to others. ... But when the storms come, all systems of doctrine and conduct not founded on these sayings of Christ will fall. – *John Phillips*

The storms of life TEST the mettle of a person and reveal what they are all about.

### **Slide # 21**

**1 Peter 1:6–7 (NKJV)**

**6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by **various trials**,  
**7** that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

The storms of life are proving times. Some abandon their faith in the midst of the storm proving their faith was never really genuine. However, the genuine persevere.

But the storms of life are only a precursor to the ultimate test (storm) of God's judgment that will reveal who is really standing on the truth and who is not.

What we have in this parable is a somber warning against feeling secure in self-righteousness based on religious rituals or religious legalism such as practiced by the scribes and Pharisees. In contrast is true repentance and faith which has a changed heart and seeks to live in obedience to the Lordship of Christ.

**28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,**

When Jesus got done teaching the people were astonished (cf. Mt. 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1). The idea of astonished is that of sheer amazement, a state of awe, or being overwhelmed (cf. Mt. 7:28; 13:54; 19:25; 22:22).

I think what amazed them was His dogmatism about salvation – about how some even though professing so strongly are not truly saved. You see the Jews tended to think and teach that as Jews they were all automatically saved as the favored people of God – so what Christ said was astonishing. I think it was staggering for them to hear Jesus attaching salvation directly to Himself and to recognition of Him as LORD! This was startling. It was shocking! No one else ever dared say these kinds of things.

The word **teaching** can refer to either content or manner. Evidently both are in view here. After reviewing the content of Christ's teaching verse 28 says the people were astonished. But then verse 29 goes on to address the manner of Christ's teaching saying He taught as one having authority.

It is pointed out that while they were astonished it says nothing about a heart commitment. However, Jesus calls for allegiance to Him as Lord and not just amazement as the whole surrounding context shows.

If God showed up in person to teach us, what would it look like? It would look like Jesus! He was God in the flesh and His manner of teaching and the content of it blew the people's minds.

### **Slide # 22**

#### **John 7:32 (NKJV)**

**32** The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.

#### **John 7:45–46 (NKJV)**

**45** Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

**46** The officers answered, "**No man ever spoke like this Man!**"

### **Slide # 23**

#### **Isaiah 11:1–2 (NKJV)**

**1** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

**2** The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The **Spirit of wisdom and understanding**, The **Spirit of counsel and might**, The **Spirit of knowledge** and of the fear of the LORD.

#### **Luke 4:21–22 (NKJV)**

**21** And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

**22** So all bore witness to Him, and **marveled at the gracious words** which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

The wisdom and power of Jesus' words was amazing. You know Jesus never lost an argument. When Jesus asked the questions it left his critics just sitting there in silence. He never had to say, "***I don't know, I will get back to you.***" He was never at a loss for words. He never said something really stupid like I often do. Instantly, He always knew what to say and it was always stunningly profound.

We marvel at His supernatural miracles, but just as astounding was His teaching! It too is one of the great proofs that He is the Messiah. No one ever taught like Jesus did – either before or after Him.

## **29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

Here is the standout thing – Jesus taught as one having authority in contrast to the scribes. The scribes were the scholars of the day.

Scribes in ancient Israel were learned men whose business was to study the Law, transcribe it, and write commentaries on it. They were also hired on occasions when the need for a written document arose or when an interpretation of a legal point was needed. Ezra, “a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses,” was a scribe ([Ezra 7:6](#)).

The scribes took their job of preserving Scripture very seriously; they would copy and recopy the Bible meticulously, even counting letters and spaces to ensure each copy was correct. We can thank the Jewish scribes for preserving the Old Testament portion of our Bibles. -[Gotquestions.org](#)

Most of the influential scribes were laymen and were also members of the conservative Pharisaic party (cf. Acts 23:9). For this reason the scribes are often linked together with the Pharisees.

But here was the problem, the scribes also considered themselves the guardians of the so-called “oral law”. Supposedly, God not only gave Moses the WRITTEN WORD, but also the ORAL WORD. That is where they really got into trouble. In addition to the written law, they also added to it all kinds of legalistic manmade teachings called “the oral law”.

In contrast Christ brought the people back to the intent of the Law and presented a higher spiritual standard which can only be fulfilled in relationship to Him (cf. Mt. 5:28). For example, Christ taught it is not enough to refrain from physical adultery – one must not even look on a woman to lust after her – for to do so is to commit adultery in the heart (Mt. 5:28). While the scribes emphasized outward legalism, in contrast Christ emphasized having a right HEART!

The scribes were scholars and scholars are always quoting some other authority. **I remember when I was in Bible College** one of my professors told us young men, “*Now remember you are young and being young you are going to have to quote other scholars if people are going to respect what you are saying.*” There is a certain wisdom in that. Yes, a young person just learning should appeal to those with more knowledge.

But this is the point: Jesus did not need to do that. As someone said, *“He didn’t need to quote anyone because He was the original Word (John 1:1).”* (Life Application Bible) Jesus was THE message – He was the ultimate communication from God. He was the communication of God from God.

In contrast the scribes are called *“walking footnotes who derived their authority by citing other famous rabbis.”* (The Moody Bible Commentary) The introduction of the idea of AUTHORITY becomes a major theme in Matthew. Christ’s authority in teaching in Matt. 5-7 segues to His authority as seen in His miracle-working ministry in Matt. 8-10.

And this emphasis on **“authority”** became a major point of contention as the religious leaders felt threatened by Jesus. They had a problem with His lack of **“official credentials”** (cf. Lk. 4). Never mind that He had all the God-ordained Messianic credentials outlined in the prophetic Scriptures.

This is why they constantly challenged Jesus. This explains the tension over the traditions (cf. Mt. 9:14; 12:2; 15:1-2); their demand for signs (cf. 12:38; 16:1); and their challenging questions regarding authority (cf. 21:23). In effect, these religious leaders were constantly saying to Jesus, **“Who do you think you are?”**

### **Slide # 24**

#### **Matthew 21:23 (NKJV)**

**23** Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what **authority** are You doing these things? And who gave You this **authority**?”

This is why when Jesus said things like, **“You have heard...But I tell you”** in what is called “The Six Antithesis Statements” that His voice of authority was met with hostility from these religious leaders (cf. Mt. 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43). In each case Christ explained that what they had been taught about the mere EXTERNAL emphasis of law is to have a DEEPER corresponding INTERNAL reality. Jesus made it a HEART issue!

The theme of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount is a message about righteous living. Christ emphasized that His teaching must be received with the obedience of repentance in view of WHO He is as the Messiah-King.

His entire message is not merely ethical but MESSIANIC! It is grounded not merely in doing this or that but in WHO He is. He was not merely a prophet but claimed to be LORD. He determines who enters the kingdom.

Why should we adhere to Christ's Words in the Sermon on the Mount? Why should we put it into practice? Because of its striking illustrations? Because of the beauty of its style? Because the power of its moral content?

No, as followers of Christ we practice it because beyond its ethical, moral, and spiritual teaching is the **PERSON** of the preacher Himself. Recognizing Jesus as Lord and Savior means we seek to do what He says. In repentance He calls us to allegiance to Himself as Lord. Above all this message is about the AUTHORITY of Christ.

As Lord, Christ speaks with AUTHORITY and true faith responds with obedience! That is the bottom-line issue! That is the conclusion of the whole matter as emphasized by Christ here at the end of the greatest sermon ever given. Build your life accordingly!

“Many people entertain the idea that Christianity, like almost any other religion, is basically a system of beliefs - you know, a set of doctrines or a code of behavior, a philosophy, an ideology.

But that's a myth.

Christianity is not at all like Buddhism or Islam or Confucianism. The founders of those religions said (in effect), 'Here is what I teach.

Believe my teachings. Follow my philosophy.' Jesus said, 'Follow me' (Matthew 9:9).

Leaders of the world's religions said, 'What do you think about what I teach?' Jesus said, 'Who do you say I am?'(Luke 9:20)”

– **Josh McDowell**

Let me ask you. Who is Jesus to you? Is He truly your Lord? Is He your Savior! As Savior He died for all your sins. As Lord/God over all He arose again the third day. Are you building your life upon Him as Savior and Lord? This is the ultimate issue – the ultimate eternal issue.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” – Acts 16:31