

The Sermon - In 10 Sentences Or Less

Surprise the World (Week 6) - Hear and Act:



1. Chp. 6 focused on the 2nd "L" in BELLS - the habit of "learning Christ."

2. This particular habit is closely related to a key word close to the heart of our Christian identity: "disciple."

3. A "disciple" by definition is a student or learner, someone who knows their need of a teacher to give them what they do not in themselves possess.

4. Matthew 7.24-27 is a parable Jesus tells about the habit of "learning," told at the tail end of the Sermon on the Mount.

5. Human beings tend to build their lives on foundations similar to the deceptive sand and soil around the Sea of Galilee: in good weather these suspect foundations hold, in the storms of life they give way.

6. Jesus warns about one specific flimsy foundation to life: hearing His teaching, but not acting upon it (7.26-27).

7. Ironically enough, Christians may be the ones most at risk of this, because our familiarity with Christ might lead to our diminished intentionality about living what we hear week after week.

8. Conversely, Jesus says that both hearing and acting upon what He's said is a foundation that will see you through any gale that may blow (7.24-25).

9. And this is a major part of Christianity's offer to our neighbors and world: come build your life on the one sure foundation Jesus proclaims - hearing and acting upon His teaching.

Quotes to Remember

- Robert D. Lupton in *Theirs Is The Kingdom*: *"The fundamental building blocks of the Kingdom are relationships. Not programs, systems, or productivity. But inconvenient, time-consuming, relational acts. The Kingdom is built on personal involvements that disrupt schedules and drain energy. When I enter into redemptive relationships with others, I lose much of my capacity to produce desired results with a minimum expenditure of energy, time, money, or materials. In short, relationships sabotage my efficiency...Is this perhaps what our Lord meant when He said we must lay down our lives for each other?"*

- Dallas Willard: *"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the heavens into every corner of human existence."*

A Prayer for the Week

Adapted from Holy Disciples Parish (Puyallup, WA):

"Good and gracious God, You invite all people to follow Your Son Jesus Christ, and become His disciples. Touch our hearts, enlighten our minds, and stir our spirits, so that we heed Christ's word more closely, and proclaim His good news to those around us more courageously.

"May our faith in You increase, may our hunger for Your mission intensify, and may our church be strengthened as we learn to love one another as Christ has loved us. We pray this so that as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we would experience more and more of His Kingdom among us and in the world, amen."