

## Hear and Do; Matthew 7:24-27

### I. Everyone

- A. The text says “everyone” who hears and does
- B. This is an all inclusive word — there is no one who is restricted from the Gospel
- C. Acts 2:37–39 (ESV); <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”
- D. Everyone — no matter who you are — has an opportunity to respond to the Gospel
- E. We get caught up in formulas for salvation
  - 1. Hear, believe, repent, confess, baptism, life
  - 2. While there is truth to these words they do not capture some of the other “musts” of the Gospel, such as loving each other
- F. Jesus captures the complete (and simple) formula here in Matthew 7 — hear and do

### II. Hear

- A. “Everyone who hears these words of mine”
- B. Romans 10:14 (ESV); How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
- C. We cannot make up our own religion (even if it is based on Jesus)
  - 1. Jesus’ words (and the words of his apostles and prophets) are what make up Christianity
  - 2. These are the words that show us the savior
  - 3. John 8:31–32 (ESV); <sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
  - 4. “Abide” — remain, stay; to continue in what you have learned (from Jesus)
  - 5. Other people’s words might be wise — they might even be true — but they cannot save you
  - 6. John 12:45–50 (ESV); <sup>45</sup> And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup> If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”
- D. As Christians we are obligated to the words of Christ (the Gospel)
  - 1. We must “hear” them
  - 2. We cannot be dependent upon men to spoon feed us the words of God (and His Son, Jesus)
  - 3. Romans 1:16–17 (ESV); <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- E. We must put aside man-made teachings and remember that it is only the Gospel that has the power to save!

### III. Do

- A. Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV); <sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the

floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

- B. The contrast is not about who hears and doesn't hear — everyone who hears is obligated to follow
  - C. The contrast is about those who do and those who do not
  - D. Jesus precedes this illustration with the sermon on the mount starting in chapter 5
    - 1. Do good deeds so others will glorify God — Matthew 5:13-16
    - 2. Do follow the law (Jesus lived under the Mosaic Law) — Matthew 5:17-20
    - 3. Do not be full of lust — Matthew 5:27-30
    - 4. Do not get even, but give without expecting anything in return — Matthew 5:38-42
    - 5. Love (even your enemies) — Matthew 5:43-48
    - 6. Give to those in need — Matthew 6:1-4
    - 7. Make prayer communication with God — Matthew 6:5-13
    - 8. Forgive others — Matthew 6:14-15
    - 9. Fast — Matthew 6:16-18
    - 10. Don't be caught up in material wealth — Matthew 6:19-24
    - 11. Seek God first — Matthew 6:25-33
    - 12. Do not be an eternal judge — Matthew 7:1-6
    - 13. The sermon on the mount is a list of attitudes and characteristics that drive our behavior
    - 14. “The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is not meant to be admired but to be obeyed.” <sup>1</sup>
  - E. “It is not enough simply to hear Jesus' call or even to respond with some temporary flurry of good deeds. Rather, we must build a solid foundation that combines authentic commitment to Christ with persevering obedience.” <sup>2</sup>
  - F. “Hearing sermons is a dangerous business if one does not put them into practice.” <sup>3</sup>
  - G. We often refer to christianity as a relationship with God through Jesus
    - 1. I think that is very true
    - 2. Relationships take work — they don't just ‘happen’
    - 3. Think about marriage — The primary reason marriages fail is because one (or both) do not want to put the work in to save it
    - 4. 1 Peter 3:7 (ESV); Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- IV. Build Your House
- A. Your relationship to Jesus is going to take work
    - 1. We need to grow in him — study, know His word
    - 2. 2 Peter 3:17–18 (ESV); <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
    - 3. Help other people hear God's word

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<sup>1</sup> Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 134.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Mt 7:26.

- B. 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV); but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
- C. What are you building on?
- D. Rock or sand?