

(Mt 7:13~27, part 3)  
(Vs 21~27)

I love the simplicity in which Jesus teaches... He uses the everyday things around us, things that we understand, to teach us the truths of the kingdom of heaven. Here He uses one of the most basic fundamental principles of building a home, that of having a solid foundation, to teach us one of the most profound truths we'll ever hear. Just as a house, not built on a solid foundation, will end in ruins...so it is with a man's life, not based on having Jesus Christ as Lord of your life.

At the heart of this passage, is what Jesus says here in verse 21...<sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

Notice what He said there... According to Christ, only he that **does the will of His father**, (the will of God)...will enter the kingdom of heaven. **All others will be turned away**... Let's read that again, I want to make sure we understand what He's saying here. <sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

According to the Lord of heaven Himself...it is only those who **DO the will of His father**, that will be granted entrance into the kingdom of heaven...**ALL others will be turned away**. That's exactly what He goes on to say here...

<sup>22</sup>*Many will say to me in that day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me**, ye that work iniquity.*

That's the most horrifying picture in all of scripture to me, my heart breaks for these people... I just can't get that picture out of my mind, of standing before the Lord, having full confidence that you'll be granted entrance...only to be turned away. Especially knowing the only other option... I don't know this for a fact, because the scriptures don't say this, but I've always imagined the demons of hell, crouching close by here, and how they begin wringing their hands, and laughing when they hear the pleas of the people, pleading with the Lord of everything they've done "in His name!" I can just see them crying out, as they drag them away to the abode of the dead. A frightening picture indeed...

Now, understanding what Jesus says here, the matter of "The Father's Will" becomes of the utmost importance. Given what He says here, we ought to be consumed with knowing and doing His will! I don't know about you, but I think that is very clear, there's no way to misinterpret what He's saying here, how that only those who **DO the will of His father**, that will be granted entrance into the kingdom of heaven. And this not the only case in which declares this truth, there's another case recorded in a couple of the gospels. One such place is here in Matthew's gospel...

**(Mt 12)** <sup>46</sup>*While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. <sup>47</sup>Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. <sup>48</sup>But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?** <sup>49</sup>And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!** <sup>50</sup>For whosoever **shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven**, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

Here Jesus clarifies that the "Family of God" are those who "Do the will of the Father." Even His own earthly family would not see the kingdom of heaven, outside of "Doing the Fathers Will".

So given these things, I can't imagine a greater importance, than that of "Knowing" (and more importantly), "DOING" the "Father's will." The question becomes, what is the "Father's will?" What was Jesus referring to here by that? Well, I think as we look closer at this passage, the answer to those questions will be clearer and clearer...

It all begins with that statement He makes in verse 21...Now I want you to notice, that there's two parts to that statement... The first part speaks to those who will not be granted entrance, but rather turned away.

<sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...* Then you have the second part that refers to those who will be granted entrance... *but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* Now once you've done that, it's easier to see how the following verses are broken down into two parts, explaining each one of these statements. Let me show you what I mean.

In verses 22~23, He elaborates on the first part of His statement, concerning those who "SAY", Lord, Lord... <sup>22</sup>*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord* (this is those in verse 21 who say unto Him, Lord, Lord)... It is here He explains as to why, even though they call Him Lord, Lord... and do all these things in His name... but yet will not enter the kingdom. Then in verses 24~27, He uses an illustration of two houses, to explain what is the will of the Father. It may be a little tough to see right now, but as we go through this, I believe it will become very clear... Let's look at the first part here, where He says... <sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...*

(Vs 22~23) <sup>22</sup>*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Now this one is very interesting to say the least... This particular group of people that Jesus is referring to here, clearly identified with the worship of God. That term LORD is a term of high esteem and honor to God, speaking to His authority. (Explain, not talking about Jesus Himself here, but GOD... Jehovah He is Lord! Yahweh is the Lord of heaven and earth.) And not only that, they've done some quite remarkable things, "In His Name." According to them, they've "prophesied", they've "cast out devils", and done "many wonderful works"... all "In His Name!" That's some pretty incredible stuff... But even so, they are denied entrance to the kingdom, and turned away. I'm sure these people were sincere, and given what they say here, they were absolutely shocked at His words, they were sure they'd be granted entrance.

So what happened? Well, the answer lies in understanding the statement, "*ye that work iniquity.*" The term "iniquity" is often associated with sinful actions, corruption, evil ways, etc. And that's what it means here, but not in the way you might think. By declaring them to be "workers of iniquity," Jesus was not saying they were out here doing what we'd consider sinful things, participating in sinful behavior. Matter of fact, it's quite the contrary. The folks in view here, lived morally pure lives, you would never find them doing anything the Holy Scriptures declared evil or wicked. Their whole lives revolved around the word of God, they highly esteemed His commandments, and declared them to be the standard by which all men are to live! In the eyes of their peers, they'd be seen as the examples of "godly living."

You say, I'm confused then... why does He declare them to be "workers of iniquity," and turn them away? Because they were! Let me explain, "iniquity" literally translates to *violation of law* or transgression of the law, maybe the best term... *unrighteousness*. Let me explain this, you see, MANY have the idea, that if you believe in God, and keep His commandments, you'll go to heaven when you die. These folks here truly believed in God, and they earnestly tried to keep His commandments. They were very meticulous and diligent to do what was right, and to abstain from what was wrong... according to God's commandments. But herein lies the problem. No one who does this will enter the kingdom of heaven. (I know that sounds shocking, but I need you to listen) You see, it's not "God's will" that you straighten up your life, and "live right," by obeying His Laws and Commandments. That was never "God's will!" God never gave us His Law, so that we could be justified before Him, by living to it. Quite the contrary, He gave it to "Condemn us," by revealing sin in us. You see, to understand what Jesus is saying here, is to understand that we are sinners, all of us, and that's all we'll ever be. This is in contrast to the Law of God, which is Holy and Righteous. Something we are not, at our best, we're still sinners. You see, in spite of our most diligent and most sincere efforts in keeping His Law, we can never produce the first fiber of righteousness. Matter of fact, understood, it's sin... because that's all we can produce. True, it may "appear" to be righteousness, especially when you compare it with the way those out here who live in debauchery, but it's still not righteousness. It's nothing more than the sinful works of the flesh.

That's why Jesus refers to them as, "*Workers of Iniquity.*" What they deemed as "*works of righteousness,*" was in reality "*works of unrighteousness...iniquity*"...because it was a product of *sinful flesh*.

**So then, how do we please God, how do we DO His will?**

Well, I'm going to try and put this as simply as I can...It's not obedience to His Laws and Commandments that God desires...but rather...obedience to His Son!

The "**Will of God**" is men be reconciled to Himself, through a relationship with His Son!

I can't begin to emphasize to you, how much it is **God's will**, you be reconciled to Him. I know we can't comprehend this, but EVERYTHING revolves around this one desire! Everything that is written, everything He has orchestrated throughout history, every prophet He sent, every preacher He has called and set apart to the gospel...is to this end...that men would believe on His Son by faith, and walk in humble submission to Him as the Lord of their life!

That's what Jesus meant here by His statement, "...**but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**" The WILL of God is that men would come to His Son, and obey Him as Lord.

That's what the TRUTH of this parable of the two houses here in Matthew is speaking too...

**Obedience to Christ as Lord of our life.**

That's what the two house's represent here in this passage...a man's life. One represents a man whose life is lived in submission to Christ as Lord, whom Jesus describes as a wise man, who built his house on a rock. This is contrasted with a man, who doesn't, whom Jesus describes as a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. Read it with me, and notice the distinctions between the two outcomes...

*<sup>24</sup>Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>26</sup>And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

The emphasis here is whether or not a man "*Obeys*" Christ, by "*Doing*" what He says...

*<sup>24</sup>Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

*<sup>26</sup>And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

Beloved, it's not enough to "*hear*" the gospel, it's not enough to "*know*" the gospel"...one must HEED the gospel...and walk in obedience to Christ as Lord. That's what this analogy is all about, it details for us, the outcome of the two responses of men, concerning Christ. Upon hearing the gospel, men will do one of only two things. They will either walk in obedience to Him, "*doing what He says*"... Or, they will continue to walk in disobedience to God, by "*not doing what Christ says.*" It's about the Lordship of Christ, He is either the Lord of your life...or He's not. And based on the analogy of these two houses here, the end result will be quite different, depending on which one you are...

**The analogy He uses here is a very simple one...** We all understand the importance of building a house on a solid foundation. Without a good foundation, you're wasting your time and money. Regardless of the quality of the materials you use, regardless of craftsmanship, and time spent on making sure the house is built well...it's all in vain, if the foundations not right.

Here Jesus describes two houses, built by two men...one built on a rock foundation, the other, sand. Both houses endured the same elements, "*<sup>25</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;*" But the outcome of the two was totally different. Speaking of the one built on the rock foundation, Jesus says, "*and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*" Whereas, speaking of

the one built on the sand, He says, “*and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*” Something we all expected, right? I mean, this is a very simple principle, something all of us understand very well.

But the point of this analogy is not about houses, it’s about LIVES...and what they’re built on. You see, this analogy of these two houses represents the only “*Two kinds of people*” in the world. All men are described by one of these two houses. You’re either a wise man, or a fool. Which one that is, depends on whether or not you’re obedient to Jesus Christ as Lord of your life or not. Again, that’s what this whole analogy revolves around, remember what He said there...

<sup>24</sup>*Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.....* <sup>26</sup>*And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

Listen...whether or not “*your house*” will stand in the coming judgment...will be determined by whether or not you **HEED** the gospel of Jesus Christ! As I said earlier, it’s not enough to “*hear*” the gospel, it’s not enough to “*know*” the gospel”...one must HEED the gospel...and walk in obedience to Christ as Lord of his life!

According to what Jesus reveals in this passage...the “*Majority*” of those who hear (MANY)...will not HEED. These are those who build their houses on the sand. And as we saw in the analogy, their end is destruction. Destruction is the main point, throughout this section. Three times here we see this warning!

(Vs 13)...the “*Broad Way*” that leads to ***destruction***, and MANY that go in thereat...

(Vs 19)...every tree that doesn’t bring forth good fruit, ***hewn down and cast into the fire***...

(Vs 27)...and ***it fell, and great was the fall of it***...because it was built upon the sand...

Over and over, the gospel is a warning to those who do not follow Christ in this life!

And listen, “*Religion*” won’t help you, nor will straightening up your life, and “*living right*”, by living in accordance to the Law of God...all of that is SAND! Our only hope is Christ! He is the “*Rock of our salvation*,” and only those who trust in Him will be able to stand in the judgment!

This morning you will either HEED the gospel, and “*Repent*”...by turning from this world, turning from living to “*the Flesh*,” turning from living any longer to “*your will, your desires, your ways*”...and humble yourself before Christ, serving Him as Lord...or giving the clear message of the gospel...you will perish.

It all comes down to the simple question... **Is Jesus Christ the LORD of your LIFE?**

Jesus said, <sup>21</sup>*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*