

Who Do You Say That I Am?
Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**
62- The Kingdom of Heaven and Its Citizens- Part 42
The New Standard

Church July 23, 2023

Matthew 7:24-29

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall."

28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;

29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

There are three things in this final Passage of what has come to be called, the “*Sermon on the Mount*” that I want you to pay close attention to:

1. The word, “**Therefore**” at the *beginning* of verse 24
2. The phrase, “**these Words of Mine**” in verses 24& 26
3. Verses 28&29

1. The Word, “Therefore” at the Beginning of Verse 24

The word, “**Therefore**” at the Beginning of verse 24 tells us WHY Jesus said what He said in the *rest* of verse 24 and all of verses 25-27. The phrase, “**these Words of Mine**” in verses 24&26 tell us about the massive Change that Jesus brought into the World as the incarnate God.

And both of those things, along with the “**Authority**” of verse 29

show us the “*New Authority that brings forth the New Standard*” of what it meant to be the new people of God; a true, *spiritual Jew*; a child of Abraham; and someone, who is going to inherit the new “*Kingdom of Heaven*”. From now on- EVERYONE who is saved; EVERYONE who has their Sins forgiven and are made Righteous; EVERYONE who is in “Right Standing” with God- will believe and know and trust and proclaim that...

Jesus has the *ultimate* Authority

... or as the Apostle Paul later wrote in **Philippians 2:6-11**:

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

... which means:

- Jesus is *greater* than the Angels
- Jesus is greater than satan and the demons
- Jesus is *greater* than Abraham
- Jesus is *greater* than Moses
- Jesus is *greater* than Joshua
- Jesus is *greater* than the Prophets
- Jesus is *greater* than the Jewish religious Leaders

... so, from now on- the ONE Way; the ONLY Way to glorify God the Father- is to *exalt* and *treasure* and *adore* and *worship* God the Son, Jesus Christ!

Now most of us, who are saved; and who live in 21st Century America- have no Problem with this- because this is ALL we have ever known. We *love* Jesus; and we *worship* Him. We WANT Jesus to have the *supremacy* over our Lives and over ALL things.

But we have to understand that this was “*radical Theology*” to those Jews of the 1st Century- to whom Jesus said these words. Because for the *entirety* of their Lives- they had been taught about the “*Greatness*” of the “*Founder*” of their Religion (Abraham); and the “*Greatness*” of the Law-giver (Moses); and the “*Greatness*” of the Prophets; and the “*Greatness*” of those men, who taught them and who led them in their Day (the religious Leaders of the 1st Century). And to see *anyone* as literally being God Almighty in human Flesh was considered to be Blasphemy! Yet that is *exactly* Who Jesus was (and is)!

It is hard for many of us to grasp just how “off-base” the Jews of the 1st Century had become. I mean, after all- these were:

- The People of the Covenant
- God’s chosen ones

... and it was to them- and to them- ALONE- that God sovereignly gave:

- ✓ Their Land
- ✓ Their Religion
- ✓ Their Government
- ✓ Their Language
- ✓ Their Leaders
- ✓ The Scriptures
- ✓ His Prophets

But by the Time that Jesus appeared- the Jews had been living under the *domination* of pagan Gentiles- for several Centuries- *first* the Greeks (333-63 BC) and then the Romans (from 63 BC). And so, there was an amazing “Divide” within the Land that God had given to the Jews:

1. Some Jews had given up their “*Jewishness*” and had capitulated to the Gentiles in both civic and religious Life
2. Other Jews resented the pagans and were determined to maintain their “*Jewishness*”; re-establish their Religion; and rid their Land of the Gentiles

But, partly, because of being dominated for so long by Gentiles; and, partly, because of their own Sin- many Jews had *fabricated* a completely *different* Religion than what God had given them- that, among *many* evil things- had *elevated* Angels to a Place of “*Greatness*” they didn’t deserve.

So, by the Time that Jesus appeared- many Jews actually *worshipped* Angels; and saw these created beings as a type of “*demi-gods*” that, among other things,

controlled rainfall; allowed them to have babies; and that could either bless or curse them.

And by 68AD (almost 40 years after the Resurrection)- this had gotten so out of hand- that the unknown writer of the **Epistle to the Hebrews** saw the Need to take almost the entire first two Chapters to uphold the Superiority of Jesus *over* the Angels as he *infallibly* wrote:

Hebrews 1:2-14

2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

3 And He is the radiance of His [God's] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name [Reputation] than they.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

7 And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."

8 But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

9 "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."

10 And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,

12 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

... and then the writer *summarized* what he wanted the believing Jews to know about Angels in **Hebrews 2:5**, when he said,

For He [God] did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.

... and he went on to say that this Place of *complete* Superiority and this Position of *absolute* Supremacy over ALL things- including Heaven and Earth (the “*Right Hand*” of God)- was reserved *solely* for Jesus- Who was the Messiah (the Christ/ the anointed One)!

So, the Focus of everything the writer of **Hebrews** was talking about is:

The Absolute Authority of Jesus, the Christ- OVER EVERYTHING

... and Jesus’ absolute Authority *over everything* is the “NEW STANDARD”!

So, all through the “*Sermon on the Mount*”- Jesus Himself is establishing His Authority- by periodically saying things like,

“For truly I say to you” (Matthew 5:18)

“For I say unto you” (Matthew 5:20)

“But I say unto you” (Matthew 5:22)

“Truly I say to you” (Matthew 5:26)

... because Jesus did NOT say, “*Moses said...*”; nor did He say, “*The Scriptures say...*”. Instead, Jesus used *Himself* and His Own Divine absolute Authority as the Basis for what He taught (*But I say to you*).

And then He capped it off by acting as God in determining who can be forgiven in **Matthew 6:14&15** when He said,

14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

This established the “*New Standard*” of the *total* Authority; and *complete* Superiority; as well as the *absolute* Supremacy of Jesus, the Christ

(Messiah/anointed One) over EVERYTHING that God created- *including* both Man and Angels- as well as ALL of the historical Jewish heroes!

And the people who heard Jesus speak that Day *knew* it. They *heard* it. And they understood that something New; something Amazing; and something Great had just happened- because Matthew tells us,

28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;

29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

... and many of them believed precisely BECAUSE Jesus was demonstrating His absolute Authority by what He taught in this Sermon. And as we continue on in our verse-by-verse “*Journey through Matthew*”- the next area that Jesus will demonstrate His absolute Authority is over the Realm of Disease and Death.

But once Jesus spoke these Words; once Jesus preached this Sermon; once Jesus stood in the Place and the Position of total Authority; and complete Superiority; and absolute Supremacy- the Jews would NEVER be able to go back to what they had before. Now, it is Jesus- or it is NOTHING!

And so, the Jews, who heard Jesus preach this Sermon on that Day- were now at a Crossroad. They will either *abandon* the Old Covenant; fully embrace Jesus; and the final, full, and superior Covenant- and live in God’s Favor; or they will try to hold on to the *inferior* Old Covenant; categorically *reject* Jesus; and be damned by God. But they will NOT do both- because they CANNOT do both. It is truly “either-or”; but it will NEVER be “both-and”.

And, once Jesus lived; and died; and rose from the Dead- EVERYTHING changed! And this Sermon- that we now call, the “*Sermon on the Mount*”- is Jesus’ Introduction to His absolute Authority- NOT as simply another Good Man, who is speaking some Truths about God- but as the God/Man- as the incarnate God Himself- Who IS Truth! And so, from now on- EVERY person, who has been chosen by God, from before the Foundation of the world, will be *attracted* to the absolute Authority of Jesus. And those who are *insulted or repelled* by Jesus’ Authority- those who are *offended* at it; and those who *reject* it- are proving three things:

1. They do NOT understand the Old Testament correctly
2. They are NOT chosen by God
3. They are NOT the people of God

... and that is what is happening throughout this Sermon.

Okay, so now, let's examine what Jesus said immediately *after* He said, "**Therefore**" in verse 24:

24 ... everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall."

... so, by beginning verse 24 with the word, "**Therefore**"- He was telling the people that what He says now in verses 24-27 is the *culmination* of EVERYTHING He had been teaching since **Matthew 5:3**.

Now I have told you many times, "*Words mean Things*". And what I mean by that- is that Words have very *precise* and *narrow* Definitions- that should NEVER be changed. And this is not some "*pet-peeve*" with me- this really matters. Because if I do not understand what you are saying (because you have fabricated your own "designer" Definitions for Words)- then I have no idea what you are trying to tell me.

And that is why I am so against people saying, "*Well, I have MY Truth and you have YOUR Truth; and MY Truth may be different from YOUR Truth- but it's still true.*" Now beside the obvious Fact that this is a silly and a nonsense Statement- it is entirely *unworkable*. Because there is Truth; there is Fact; and Reality- and then there is Opinion and Feeling. And the two are NOT the same. So, whereas, in this Country- you may be entitled to your own Opinion- you are NOT entitled to your own Facts. And Facts and Truth and Reality is what is; it is what happened; and it is what's correct- while our Opinions and our Feelings may be all over the map and completely unreliable.

So, when I have a brain tumor I want removed- I don't look for just *any* person. I look for a Doctor- who actually has a medical Degree. Because even though it is true that there are "good" and "bad" Doctors- ALL Doctors have gone through a rigorous level of Study and Accomplishment and Testing BEFORE they can get that Degree and legally call themselves, a "Doctor". And that means they have been exposed to Facts; and Science; and Truth; about the human body. So, I won't be looking for somebody who changes tires all week long and does brain surgery on the weekends as a hobby.

But I'm also not interested in having a doctor that "feels" a certain Way; or that has an Opinion about my brain- even though it disagrees with Facts. I want Truth- not Feelings. And I want Facts- NOT Opinion.

And the Bible was written so that those who actually read it and study it- will be people who Think; and who *understand* the Truth; and who have grown to *love* the Truth- so they can be saved (**2Thessalonians 2:10**). So, the Bible tells us the Facts about God; and about Jesus; and about ourselves. So, it really doesn't matter how people may "Feel" about what the Bible says- all that matters is that what the Bible says is true- and it is based on Reality and actual historical Facts. And it is Best if we all come into Agreement with it.

Now when I was first saved- my Goal was to *read* the Bible. And after reading the Bible- my next Goal was to *obey* what I read. But as I grew in Grace and in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ- I *changed* my Goal, or better said- I *added* to my Goal. So, instead of just *reading* the Bible- I now wanted to *read* AND *study* the Bible. And in doing that- my Goal of *obeying* the Bible was greatly improved. Why? Because I understood the Bible better.

But as I continued to grow in the Lord- I added still more to my Goals. So, I began to read and study the Bible- but I also began to put the Bible into its correct *Context*. And then I learned how to *apply* the correct Theology to what I was reading and studying. And guess what? My Understanding improved *dramatically*- and my Obedience was *infinitely* improved.

And the MORE I did that- the MORE I realized how important Words really are- *especially* the Definitions of Words. And that helped a lot. But then I also learned that I was still taking the Bible out of Context- far too much. And so, I learned how to put the SAME Definitions of the Words of Scripture that the biblical writers had at the Time they wrote them down and NOT what those Definitions may be today.

Because it really doesn't matter what a particular Verse or Passage may mean to me. What matters is what that Verse or Passage meant to the writer- as God the Holy Spirit "*moved*" on him. Because the writer had something very *specific* in mind that we can safely say had NOTHING to do with what we all deal with almost every day as people who live in 21st Century America.

So, God the Holy Spirit "*moved*" on THAT Man; at THAT Time; to write down THOSE Words- that had THAT Meaning; at THAT Time. And God "*breathed out*" THOSE Words. So, what the writer meant as he wrote those Words down- is where the "*rubber meets the road*" as it pertains to understanding the Bible.

Let me illustrate the Point I'm trying to make- by using the Heresy of "*Perfectionism*". Perfectionism is a false Teaching that says that saved human beings can arrive at sinless Perfection on this earth and in this Life- *as long as they*

try hard enough. And some, who have been deceived by this “*doctrine of demons*” (1Timothy 4:1)- actually believe and teach that ONLY sinlessly perfect people are saved.

Now where in the world did they get such a crazy, ridiculous Lie like that? Well, they got it from the Bible! Yes, they did! They got that false Teaching from the inspired; inerrant; and infallible Words that the Apostle John wrote as God the Holy Spirit “moved” on him- from 1John 3:7-9 as rendered by the King James Version. Let’s look at it:

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Now look again at what the Holy Bible says about ourselves and Sin,

He that committeth sin is of the devil... Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

What? Yes, the Bible, in the King James Version says,

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

... and so, from reading this Passage of Scripture *accurately*- many people were deceived by the Heresy of “*Perfectionism*”!

Now what do we do about this- because we KNOW from reading *other* parts of the Bible- that Perfectionism is a false Teaching? Yet that is *exactly* what the King James Version rendered. I myself was fooled for a Time about this Issue- when I was a young Christian- NOT because I was trying to go *against* the Bible- but precisely because I was trying hard to be *faithful* to what I thought it said.

This is WHY I tell you that, *whatever* English Version you use- we still need to go back to the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages that the biblical writers used. Because we will find that certain words in those ancient languages simply don’t translate very well into English.

And by going back to the *original* biblical languages- here is what I found:
In this Passage, the Apostle John *literally* wrote this:

7 No one he distract you the doing the righteousness just he is as that [one] just he is

8 the doing the error from of the of slanderous he is that out of of beginning the slanderous he errs in[to] un[to] this he was made conspicuous the son of the of God that he might dissolve the works of the of slanderous.

9 all the having been born from of the of God error not he does that seed of him in[to] to him it stays and not he can to err that from of the of God he has been born

... which is the *literal* English translation of what the Apostle John actually wrote down- 2,000 years ago in Koine Greek. And the NASB95 rendered this as:

7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

... where the key to understanding this Passage lies in the word, "*practices*"- in verse 9- which gives the correct Context of what John was actually teaching.

And from that it is crystal clear that John was NOT teaching that human beings can become sinlessly Perfect. So, in verse 9, John did NOT say,

whoever is born of God does not commit [ANY] Sin [at all]- because the Seed [residual] of [Jesus] Christ remains in him [in other words, God the Spirit remains in the Believer]- and, [therefore], he cannot Sin [at all]- [precisely] because he has been born of God.

... which gives the WRONG Idea that the New Birth empowers the Believer to NEVER sin again- *at all*. Instead, the Apostle infallibly taught this in verse 9,

whoever is born of God does not [continually practice] Sin [on an ongoing Basis- without Conviction]- because the Seed [residual] of [Jesus] Christ remains in him [in other words, God the Spirit remains in the Believer]- and, [therefore], he cannot [continually practice] Sin- [precisely] because he has been born of God.

... which instead of teaching sinless Perfection- teaches that God the Spirit, Who now dwells permanently inside the Believer, will ALWAYS bring Conviction for every Sin we commit- so that, we may repent. And because of the New Birth- we are NO LONGER “slaves of Sin” and therefore, we will NOT *always* fall into Sin when we are tempted.

So, the Issue is NOT whether the King James or NASB95 is the better English Version. That is a ridiculous Argument. The Issue is what did the Apostle John actually teach about saved people and Sin? And so, by going back to the original Greek- I was able to come to the correct Context- which gave me the correct Meaning of that Passage. And that is what will enable me to obey what John taught much better than if I thought I was Lost unless I am sinlessly Perfect.

So, it doesn't matter what this Passage here in **Matthew 7** means to us. It matters what Matthew intended to say- 2,000 years ago- as God the Holy Spirit was “moving” on him to so *superintend* what he was writing- that what Matthew wrote down- is now a *part* of the Inspired; Inerrant; and Infallible Word of the living God!

So, we will NOT be sinlessly Perfect in this Life and on this earth. And the Apostle John was NOT sinlessly Perfect in his Lifetime, either. What IS Perfect- is Scripture. What IS without any Error- is Scripture. But it is Scripture- rightly and fully interpreted and put into its proper Context!

So, by beginning verse 24 with the word, “**Therefore**”- the Apostle Matthew was saying that EVERYTHING Jesus had been teaching since **Matthew 5:3**- is the Reason behind WHY we need to make sure that our spiritual “House” is built on solid Rock- rather than on sand. And that is the correct Context of WHY Matthew quoted Jesus as saying, “Therefore” at the beginning of verse 24.

Now you may not see that this is a big deal, yet- but trust me- it is a VERY Big Deal- and I'll prove it as we go on further.

2. The phrase, “these Words of Mine” in verses 24& 26

Now right up to this very moment when Jesus preached this Sermon- EVERYTHING that the Jews believed and taught about how to be saved and how to stay saved- came from the Lord, through the words of Moses and the Prophets.

We need to remember that the 39 Books of the Old Testament were completed and published and had been distributed throughout the “known World” for over 200 years BEFORE Jesus was born. So, the “Standard” that had been firmly established in the Mind and the Heart of the average Jew was,

“This is what Moses [and the Prophets] said”; or “These Words of Moses and the Prophets”; or “The Lord spoke through Moses and the Prophets”, etc.

So, *because* the 39 Books of the Old Testament had *already* been written down and circulated; and *because* these 39 Books had come to Man through Angels (**Hebrews 2:2**); and *because* the Old Testament had *already* received “*Divine Credibility*” through the Signs, Wonders, and Miracles of the OT Prophets- those 39 Books of the Old Testament had become the “Standard” by which ALL THINGS were measured.

For example, “Righteousness” was defined by the Old Testament. And “Sin” was also defined by the Old Testament. And whether a person was saved or not was determined by the Old Testament. And how to please God; and how to honor Him; and what Obedience looked like- all of these Things were determined; and defined; and established by and through the 39 Books of the Old Testament. So, up until Jesus preached this Sermon- the 39 Books of the Old Testament were the “Standard” by which ALL Things were measured.

But now that Jesus preached this Sermon with the “*Divine Authority*” that ONLY God Himself has- the “Standard” has now been forever changed! So, because of Jesus- the “Standard”- by which ALL THINGS are measured- has been Updated; and Improved; and made Perfect! And from now on- ALL THINGS will be measured as to how they are “in Accord” with Jesus Himself!

And the “*Divine Credibility*” that verified that the Words of Jesus are *entirely* Perfect; and are the *final, full, and completed* Revelation of God to Man- was three immutable (unchanging) Issues:

1. Who Jesus IS
2. What Jesus DOES
3. What Jesus SAYS

... because God the Father has already spoken and said,

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matthew 3:17b)

And this phrase means two things:

1. God loves Jesus MORE and BETTER than *anyone else*
2. Jesus pleases the Father- *perfectly*

... so, by using the Phrase,

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

... and ...

Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

... Jesus is changing the “Standard”- by which ALL THINGS are measured- from the 39 Books of the Old Testament to Himself!

So, from now on- the “Standard” will NOT be, “*the words of Moses*”; or “*the words of the Prophets*”. Now the “Divine Standard” that determines and judges ALL THINGS- will be, “**these Words of Mine (Jesus)**”.

Now, of course, we will ALWAYS use the Words of Moses and the Prophets and the other Old Testament writers- because those Words are fully inspired; inerrant; and infallible. But the “Divine Standard” that determines and defines; establishes and judges ALL THINGS will no longer be the *inferior* Covenant made real by the slaughter of thousands of animals; and offered by sinful Priests; in an earthly Temple. Now the “Standard” by which ALL THINGS are judged will be the infinitely *superior* Covenant; that is based on infinitely *superior* Promises; made real through the sacrifice of an infinitely *superior* Lamb; offered by an infinitely superior High Priest; and that has to do with a heavenly Temple! And that is what Jesus is beginning to bring forth through this Sermon.

Now when we read verses 24-27 today- we focus on the phrases,

“... who built his house on the rock... yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock”

... at the End of verses 24& 25. And that is as opposed to the phrases,

“... who built his house on the sand... and it fell — and great was its fall.”

... of verses 26&27.

And the Truth we receive today is that we are to “Build” our spiritual “House” on the “solid Rock” of Jesus Christ and His Teachings; and NOT on the “sand” of “Man and his Teachings”. And that is the correct thing for us to get from this Teaching.

We MUST make sure and certain that our spiritual “House”; or our Soul; our Salvation; our Walk with God- is NOT founded on the “sand” of Man and his

fabricated Teachings- but rather on the eternal Rock that can NEVER be moved- of Jesus Christ- *personally*- and His Teachings.

So, we all MUST have a real, vibrant; alive; and personal Relationship with the Lord Christ- that was brought about by the sovereign Act of God in giving us new, spiritual Life- in the Miracle of the New Birth. And we MUST *ongoingly* repent and change and turn and make sure that we hold and grip that solid Rock and that Jesus grips and holds us. And we MUST always be “tuned in” to what Jesus said; and what He meant by what He said- by becoming very familiar with the inspired; inerrant; and infallible Word of the living God. And we MUST have a genuine and fervent prayer Life; along with Times of Fellowship with other genuine Brothers and Sisters so that we may “walk this World in White!” And *that* is what we should get from this Passage in our Day.

3. Verses 28&29

The last two verses of **Matthew 7** tell us that 2,000 years ago, there was a whole lot MORE going on than merely learning how to build our Souls and our Salvation and our entire spiritual Life on the solid Rock as opposed to the sand. And many of the Jews sensed it. And so, they understood that THIS Man taught with an Authority that they had NEVER heard before. Jesus was teaching as though He had originally written the 10 Commandments! Jesus was teaching with the Authority of God Himself! And the people knew that the Authority by which Jesus taught them- was NOT like what they had heard from the Jewish Leaders of the 1st Century.

Dear friends, we need to understand that the *fulfillment* of Haggai’s Prophecy (**Haggai 2:6-9**) was coming to pass during those heady Days of Jesus’ Ministry. And so, there was the promised “great Shaking” going on- that was NOT happening the Way that any of the Jews had imagined. And it caught the average Jew “flat-footed” and they didn’t like it. Yet they couldn’t ignore it- because this Shaking was so powerful; and so all-consuming that the ONLY thing that could remain- is what COULD NOT be shaken.

You see, the “Old Order” was passing away. The one single Way that sinful men could approach God and be saved- was now changing- because the “Old Covenant” was coming to a Close. And the Way that saved people worshipped God; and brought Honor and Glory to His Name- was also changing. And things would NEVER be the same again! So, what the Jews had; and what they had been engaged in for hundreds and hundreds of years- was now *dissolving* right before their eyes- through every Word this God/Man spoke.

And this made most of the Jews VERY, VERY uncomfortable. And so, they did NOT energetically embrace this Change. At best, they were *reluctant*. But at *worst*- they categorically *rejected* what Jesus was teaching as well as Jesus Himself!

Most of the Jews saw what Jesus was saying and doing as being nothing but the devil- moving to *destroy* everything they loved; and held dear. So, for them most part- the Jews of the 1st Century did NOT see what Jesus was Teaching; and what Jesus was DOING; and Who Jesus was- to be a “Good Thing”.

The old Way in which Sinners were saved and in which Sinners *stayed* saved- was becoming obsolete. And the “*Divine Standard*” that the Jews already had; and loved; and sought to obey- was now changing right before their eyes! And so, the “Sand” of Man that Jesus was warning the people NOT to build the “House” of their eternal Souls on- was EVERYTHING that the Pharisees; and Sadducees; and Essenes; and Zealots were teaching them. It was EVERYTHING they had been taught their entire Lives! It was what God gave them through Moses! And now they were confronted with a terrible Dilemma. Because now that Jesus has come- in order for the Jew to be in “*Right Standing*” with God- they HAD to be in “*Right Standing*” with Jesus!

And this “New Standard” said that the “solid Rock” that would keep the “Houses” of their Souls- Safe; and Secure; Strong; and Godly was, Jesus- personally; as well as, “**These Words of Mine**”! Because Jesus is *superior* to Moses. And Jesus is *superior* to Abraham; and Jesus is *superior* to David; and Jesus is *superior* to the Prophets; and Jesus is *superior* to the Angels and satan and demons!

So, to stay with the “Old Order” was to build on the Sand. To remain with the “Old Covenant”- was to build on the Sand. To be faithful to the words of Moses- was to build on the Sand! The ONLY Way the Jew of the 1st Century could build their Houses on the solid Rock was to *abandon* every effort to keep; and to be faithful to- what they already had!

Because now was the Time! Now was the Time that the *fulfillment* of all of the Old Testament Prophecies about the New Covenant was being fulfilled. And now was the Time to bring forth- the “*New Standard*”- where ALL THINGS would be measured by Who Jesus is; What Jesus does; and What Jesus says! Because now- Jesus has ALL Authority in both Heaven and Earth!

Amen. Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.