

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Sunday Sermon

Date: January 17, 2021

Text: Matthew 7:15-29

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:15-29

**Subject: Sermon on the Mount, Part 8 – False teachers;
many false professions and the two foundations**

In the preceding message from Matthew 7:1-14, we considered:

1. Our judgment of others; how we ought to be very careful because however we judge others because the LORD will ensure that we are judged in the very same way.
2. We considered our Lord's commandment to not give that which is holy to dogs and cast our pearls before swine. We saw the definition of dogs from scripture.
3. We were encouraged to ask and keep on asking; to seek and keep on seeking; and to knock and keep on knocking if we expect to receive, to find, and to have the door opened to us.
4. We considered again the golden rule. As we would that men should do to us, that we do even so to them. This is the law and the prophets.
5. We considered the strait gate and narrow way which few find as contrasted to the wide gate and broad way which leads to destruction and many there be that go in thereat.

Let us now proceed to chapter 7, verses 15 through 29. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, we have three subjects. (1) Warning against false teachers; (2) Professions with no faith; and (3) the two foundations. I will read the text, then have prayer and proceed. May the LORD give us grace to have strength and the Spirit to speak and ears to hear.

-Part 1 (Verses 15-20) Warning about false prophets

Matthew 7:15 (KJV) *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Beware of false prophets, -- Prophets of the Old Testament times both foretold things and taught the people the will of God. False prophets foretold things which never happened and taught the people wicked things which God never commanded.

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 (KJV) *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Our LORD commands us to beware of false prophets. We can be sure that there will be false teachers among us as the apostle Peter tells us by the Holy Spirit. Beware means to guard ourselves against these as persons whose teachings and actions are filled with lies and hypocrisy.

2 Peter 2:1-3 (KJV) *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment*

now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

which come to you in sheep's clothing, -- That is, they make an appearance as something they are not. Notice the contrast between sheep and wolves. We should never be surprised that these kinds of people are about us and try to come in among us.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (KJV) *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

But inwardly they are ravening wolves. -- They pretend to be sheep, and outwardly appear so innocent, harmless, meek, useful, and all that is good, as to be excelled by none. They feign themselves to be just men, and because of their appearance are admitted among the sheep, which gives them an opportunity of doing the sheep a horrible deed – to lead them astray from the truth.

Paul calls them *grievous wolves*, [Ac 20:29](#).

Acts 20:29 (KJV) *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

They clutch, grab and steal for themselves, *serve their own belly* ([Ro 16:17-18](#)),

Romans 16:17-18 (KJV) *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they*

that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

They make a prey of you, make a gain of you. Now since it is so easy a thing, and withal so dangerous, to be cheated, *Beware of false prophets.*

Matthew 7:16 (KJV) *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

Ye shall know them by their fruits. – How shall we distinguish true from false teachers? How shall we determine whether or not the man is a false prophet? We shall know them by their faithful or unfaithful discharge of their duty. If they be true teachers they shall faithfully preach and teach the Word of God; they will live a holy life; they will be ensamples to the flock. It is with men as it is with the trees, good trees bring forth good fruit, corrupt trees bring forth evil fruit. If men have the incorruptible seed of God abiding in them, they will in every relation bring forth the fruits of truth and holiness. If they do not have the ingrafted word, they will bring forth error and wickedness. This shows us that our Lord expects that his people have such a knowledge of the Scriptures so that they may be able to discern truth from falsehood. This demands diligence to read the word and search the scriptures to see whether or not the teacher speaks the truth.

Acts 17:11 (KJV) *These* (the people of Berea - Ik) *were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

Let us not take divine truths upon by our trust of the speaker, nor believe anything because it is taught by teachers.

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? – The obvious answer to both these questions is NO!

Matthew 7:17-18 (KJV) *Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, Neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. -- If you know what the tree is, you may know what fruit to expect. We would never look to gather *grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles*; it is not in their nature to produce such fruits. An apple may be stuck upon, or a bunch of grapes may hang, upon a thorn; so may a good truth, a good word or action, be found in a bad man, but you may be sure it never grew there.

[1.] Corrupt, vicious, unsanctified hearts are like thorns and thistles, which came in with sin, are worthless, vexing, and for the fire at last.

[2.] Good works are *good fruit*, like grapes and figs, pleasing to God and profitable to men.

[3.] This *good fruit* is never to be expected from bad men, and more than *a clean thing out of an unclean: Out of an evil treasure* will be brought forth *evil things*.

Conversely, if you know the fruit, then you know the kind of tree produced it. *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; and a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, nay, it cannot but bring forth evil fruit.* But let us consider the fruit of the tree which it brings forth naturally and which is its genuine product--which it brings forth plentifully and constantly and which is its usual product. Men are known not by particular acts, but by the course and tenor of their

life, and by the more frequent acts, especially those acts that appear to be freely done by them.

Matthew 7:19 (KJV) *Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

This is the very saying used by John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:10 (KJV) *And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

2 Peter 2:1-22 (KJV) But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of

*temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: **10** But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. **11** Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. **12** But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; **13** And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; **14** Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: **15** Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; **16** But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. **17** These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. **18** For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **19** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. **20** For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome,*

the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Matthew 7:20 (KJV) *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

Denying the Lord that bought them – covetousness and feigned words make merchandise of the people. They walk after the flesh, despise government and speak evil of dignities. Are natural brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed who speak evil of things they do not understand. Have eyes full of adultery and cannot cease from sin – speak great swelling words of vanity and allure through the lusts of the flesh. Promise others liberty while they themselves are the servants of corruption.

-Part 2 (Verses 21-23) Professed Christians who knew not the LORD

Matthew 7:21 (KJV) *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.*

Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, -- We cannot help but notice that the persons mentioned in these verses are those who Christ "never knew" in a saving sense. These did many outward religious works which they kept up for a long while. They were fatally mistaken and found it out in a very terrible way. Not everyone that calls Christ his Lord and Master, professes subjection to him, or is called by his name is known of the LORD.

2 Timothy 2:19 (KJV) *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. -- This is not speaking of church membership in this present time. Why is that? Because there are undoubtedly rank unbelievers in the churches just as there was a devil amongst the twelve apostles in the first church which was at Jerusalem. But this speaks of "that day" when the visible kingdom appears and when Christ judges the living gentile nations.

but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. – To do the will of the Father is not merely outward obedience to the will of God, as set forth in his word, nor mere subjection oneself to baptism and partaking of the Lord's Supper. No, this speaks of faith in Christ for life and salvation which is the source of all true obedience, and without which nothing is acceptable to God. A person does the will of God who sees the Son, looks unto him, commits himself to him, trusts in him, relies on him, and believes on him for forgiveness of sins, righteousness, salvation, and eternal life. The context of this is false prophets (false teachers) and our recognizing them by their fruits. True men, whose fruits remain, do the will of the Father. These faithfully preach the Gospel of the grace of God; they declare the whole counsel of God, and keep back nothing that is profitable to the souls of men; they are neither ashamed of the testimony of Christ, nor afraid of the faces of men; but as they are put in trust with the Gospel, so they speak it boldly, with all sincerity, not as pleasing men, but God, and commend themselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God: such as

these shall have an abundant entrance into the kingdom and glory of God.

Matthew 7:22 (KJV) *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?*

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? – “In that day,” - Not a few, but many. These are not Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Confucianists or Christian Scientists, but professing Christians. Prophesying, casting out devils (demons), and doing many wonderful works in Jesus’ name tells us they are false teachers.

Matthew 7:23 (KJV) *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

All of their outward confession of Jesus Christ in this life was for nought – because he never knew them. Their efforts were wickedness before the Lord and Savior.

-Part 3 (Verses 24-29) The Two Foundations for Life

Matthew 7:24-25 (KJV) *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 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.*

Let’s notice Luke’s account of these words of our LORD:

Luke 6:46-49 (KJV) *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house,*

*and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. **49** But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them – Which sayings of his? This will include everything He said in the sermon on the mount – Chapters 5 through 7. It will also include the writings of the apostles which writings were inspired of the Holy Spirit and are the all the word of God as Paul explains:

1 Corinthians 14:37-38 (KJV) *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. **38** But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

Are the writings of Paul scripture?

2 Peter 3:15-16 (KJV) *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; **16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, **as they do also the other scriptures**, unto their own destruction.*

Our Lord spoke to his disciples in these three chapters about >

- The blessedness of the poor in spirit; they that mourn; the meek; they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness;

the merciful; the pure in heart; the peacemakers; and they which are persecuted for righteousness sake.

- Jesus said "Ye are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." He commanded: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.
- Jesus taught us that he came not to destroy the law but to fulfil it.
- He taught us to agree with our adversaries quickly, even if it cost us our goods.
- He taught us about divorce and remarriage; to "swear not at all, but let our conversation be yea, yea, nea, nea; to resist not evil – but to turn the other cheek; to give up our coat and cloke to those who sue us at the law; to walk another mile for those who demand it of us; to love our enemies, bless them that curse us and do good to them that hate us and pray for them who despitefully use us and persecute us.
- He taught us to do our alms in secret; to pray in the manner he taught us and to pray in secret in our closet after we have shut the door; and promised that our Father which sees our alms and prayers in secret would reward us openly.
- He taught us not to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, but to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. How so, by giving of our wealth to the poor, especially the poor saints. He taught us that we cannot serve two masters; we cannot serve God and mammon (The idol of wealth).
- He taught us not to be anxious about our daily needs of food, drink, and clothing.
- He taught us about judging others, that with what judgment we judge, it would be meted to us again. He commanded us to not give that which holy unto the dogs and neither cast our

pearls before swine. We considered the meaning of dogs and swine.

- He taught us to ask and keep on asking; to seek and keep on seeking; and to knock and keep on knocking with the promise that every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
- He taught us “all things whatsoever we would that men should do to us, that we do even so to them. This is the law and the prophets.”
- He commanded us to enter in at the strait gate and walk the narrow way which leads unto life; warning us about the wide gate and broad way which leads to destruction and the many, many who are thereon.
- He bid us beware of false prophets and told us that “by their fruits shall ye know them.”
- He told us there would be many in that day who would say unto him, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? Jesus will say to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 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. – A life founded on the sayings of Jesus is a life that is solid and will stand the storms of life when they come. Why? Because it was founded upon a rock – and that rock is Christ.

Matthew 7:26-27 (KJV) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man,

which built his house upon the sand: 27 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.

Some hear the sayings of Christ with their natural ears, but never have “ears to hear.” These ignore these things and build their lives on the vain philosophies, traditions of men – upon the oppositions of science, falsely so called. These are the ones who build their lives on the sand and a foundation of sand will not stand the storms when they come, but shall surely fall and great shall be the fall of it.

Matthew 7:28 (KJV) And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

One said of him, “Never man spake as this man!” As the Centurion said at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” Jesus spoke the words of God because he was God in human flesh – a fully obedient Son who came to do the will of His Father – and delighted to do His will. His words were powerful and were spoken with authority! His words are Spirit and they are life!

Let me ask you if you know Jesus Christ, God’s son, the sinner’s savior? Do you know the one who came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost? It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners! All who are believing in him have the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Their names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world! They shall never perish and shall not come into condemnation. Do you know Jesus? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!