



Two Professions

December 14

INTRODUCTION: Let's recap the Sermon on the Mount:

1. In ch. 5 Jesus introduced us to Kingdom Characteristics, marks that reflect every disciple (we enter the Kingdom through poverty of spirit—a recognition of spiritual bankruptcy).
2. Jesus spoke of the light and salt we will be as these characteristics work themselves out in the world.
3. We can only attain to such righteousness through a right understanding of God's Law (ch. 5) and by truly practicing righteousness (ch. 6 and into 7) (see bookends of 5:17 and 7:12). We not only need Christ's imputed/credited righteousness (justification/conversion) we also need his imparted righteousness, or the righteousness that comes through the Holy Spirit (sanctification).
4. Called to this righteous perfection (Mt 5:48) we ought to pray for it (Mt 7:7–11).
5. In conclusion Jesus makes 4 stark contrasts between those who are truly His disciples and those who are not: two ways, two trees, two professions and two foundations.

KEY POINT: discernment, obedience

CHALLENGE: Read Ch. 5–7 in one sitting

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Context of Christmas, Mt 1:1–17)

- What is the context of Christmas?
- What did you learn about the theology of genealogy?
- What key things stand out from this passage?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (A Living Faith Recap)

- What has the Lord taught you about the importance of doctrine through *A Living Faith*?
- What have you learned about how to live out the Christian faith?
- What will you do to keep learning about faith and practice?

READ: Mt 7:21–23

QUESTIONS:

1. *As Jesus continues to conclude the Sermon He turns from false prophets to false professors (those who claim something). Jesus provides us with a sobering statement and hypothetical conversation.*
2. *While “Kingdom” can refer to God’s saving reign today, it can also refer to eternity. What clues in our passage lead us to think Jesus is thinking about Judgement day?*
3. *If “you shall know them by their fruits” was the key phrase last week what is the key phrase this week?*
4. *Why is “Lord” repeated?*
5. **According to the language of “Lord” (or Master), Mt 5:20 and the prayer in Mt 6:10, what is the chief mark of a disciple?¹**
6. **How does this help us see the difference between a true profession and a false profession? Why must we not be fooled by mere verbal professions?**
7. *D.A. Carson, “It is true, of course, that no man enters the kingdom because of his obedience; but it is equally true that no man enters the kingdom who is not obedient. [God’s grace produces obedience]”*
Discuss.
8. *Something to think about: D.A. Carson said, “The Father’s will is not simply admired, discussed, praised, debated, theological admired nor congratulated for its high ethical tones; it is done.”*
Discuss.
9. *Obedience means, “hearing and coming under a command in faith.”* **If we don’t obey, how does that show we don’t have faith?**
10. *Vv. 22–23– This is the sobering thing, many people can do or experience things² in Jesus name (c.f. Acts 19:11) and not be true disciples. How is this possible? Where do we see this in church culture today? How should this warn us?*

Coming Up: Dec 21- The Wiseman and the Foolishman
(No LG Dec 28/30 & Jan 4/6)

¹ persevering obedience

² That is to prophesy (speak the mind/word of God into a situation; foretell); cast out demons (exorcize); and do “mighty works” (miracles or wonders).