

7<sup>th</sup> April, this year, we began working our way through the Sermon on the Mount. When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountain side and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them. And what He taught them, is the way of discipleship. What we know as “the Sermon on the Mount”, is Jesus, teaching His disciples – showing them the blueprint for Kingdom living. What He’s saying is, “As My disciples, live like this”.

And for 4 months now – 12 messages – we’ve been hearing about life in the Kingdom of God. And today, is the final message. Matthew 7:24-29.

**Matthew 7:**<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

My hope, and my prayer, is that, as we've worked our way through the Sermon on the Mount, that you've heard the teaching of Jesus – not the teaching of Michael – the teaching of Jesus. Because the teaching of Jesus, is authoritative. The teaching of Jesus carries weight. The teaching of Jesus, is what the wise, build their lives on.....

I also hope and pray, that as you've heard the word of God – you didn't just receive it as knowledge – knowing stuff, doesn't cut it.... *Everyone who hears these words of Jesus, and puts them into practice, is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Jesus and does **not** put them into practice, is like a foolish man who built his house on sand....*

Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ, means “being” **and** “doing”. We **become** disciples of Jesus Christ, by putting our faith in Him. And there's areas in the Sermon on the mount, where I realise how utterly sinful I am, and how destitute I am, without God. And I realise how totally dependant we are, on the grace and forgiveness of God....

And so living as a disciple of Jesus means “being” – being forgiven by God. Being loved by God. Being made holy and righteous by God. Being called by God.. – it's about being..

But living as a disciple of Jesus **also** means doing. We hear the words of Jesus – not just to know more stuff – but to put them into action.

And there are many people in churches today, who are foolish. They come to church, hear the word of God, and go home exactly the same.... Utter foolishness...

When you hear the word of God, be changed by it... Hear the word of God, and when you go home, put it into action.... We are not saved from sin to go on sinning. We are not called into the Kingdom of God, to live as if we live in the kingdom of this world.... God doesn't give us His word so we can know it, but then go on to continue to live the same old way...

Hear the word of God – and put it into action...

To wind this series up, I want to share with you, the sermon as Jesus gave it. I've broken it up into 13 weeks, to have time to teach it and explain it... But now, I want you to hear it as a whole. I want you to hear the greatest message on discipleship ever given...

Hear these words – they are the words of Jesus... And put them into practice....