

# FIVE FORKS BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH

www.ffbic.org

**SERMON:** *And puts them into practice*  
**SERIES:** *Whoever Hears These Words*  
**SCRIPTURES:** *Matthew 7:24-29*  
**SPEAKER:** *Shaun Kipe*  
**DATE:** *9 - 29 - 2019*

---

*\*Credit to Scot McKnight, John Ortberg for valuable insights regarding this message!*

Well good morning, it is so great to worship with you.

2000 years ago on a little hillside in Galilee, a Jewish rabbi, a carpenter by trade...sat down in front of a group of people. Jews, folks from Galilee, the Decapolis...and this Rabbi began to teach. It was the best Sunday school lesson ever given, the greatest sermon ever preached, the most powerful words ever spoken... "The Sermon on the Mount."

Today we are coming to the end of our series "**Whoever hears these words...**" And this morning as we finish up our series...we'll discover that our series title is found in the very last section of Jesus sermon. If you have a Bible, we are headed to Matthew 7

**<sup>24</sup> "Therefore whoever 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."**

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

We started our series with this simple parable and we'll finish our series this morning with this parable as we tie up all of the loose ends and two challenges from Jesus' sermon.

### **I. Which way do you choose?**

All throughout Jesus sermon and in fact all throughout Scripture we are presented with a choice the way of life or the way of death.

Last Sunday we had some friends over in the afternoon. They have a two year old son. And he loves our pet fish. And whenever he comes over before he leaves, he asks to feed the fish. He get's really excited when it's time to feed the fish. And so my wife Jenny, will help him to feed the fish.

And if you've ever had fish before you kinda know that fish don't know when to stop eating and so you have to be careful how much food you give to the fish or they'll keep eating, until they die.

She'll get out the fish food, and take a little pinch of food and hand it to him and then he can put it in the tank and watch the fish eat.

So this past week, he was enjoying watching the fish eat so much, he decided the fish probably needed a little more food. And he's a smart little guy, he noticed where Jenny put the fish food container.

So he got it out himself. Jenny and I and his parents didn't notice until he had already managed to get the lid off of the food and he had a nice big handful of fish

food in his hands. We all looked over at the same time and his father called his name immediately and said, "Put the food down. Don't do it."

For a moment he kind of paused and you could see the wheels spinning his little two year old mind. Because in this moment...he was faced with two roads. Obedience to his father (that meant life and freedom) or simply doing whatever he wanted (and that probably meant destruction).

The moment his dad took one step in his direction, he knew he had to act quickly, he threw his little hand up over the side of the fish tank and dropped the food into the water as fast as he could. And for just a few more moments he got to experience the joy of watching the fish eat, but that moment, did not last, it was fleeting and I suspect he quickly wished had chosen a different path.

All the way back in Deuteronomy, as Israel leaves Egypt...God says...

**Deuteronomy 30:15 - <sup>15</sup> See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.**

Jesus sermon highlights these two options. There are two paths, or two roads you can take in life. And now the choice is yours. Think about the contrasting themes we have talked about.

**SHOW UP ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SCREEN:**

Narrow gate vs. Wide gate

Earthly treasure vs Heavenly Treasure

Salt vs. bland

Light vs. Dark

Good Fruit vs. Bad fruit

Do unto others or get for myself!

There is in Jesus final parable, a house built on rock vs. a house built on sand.  
Kingdom of Heaven living vs. Kingdom of earth living

And you and me we are faced with that decision. The purpose of this entire series has been calling us to become Kingdom of Heaven people. Which way do you choose?

The Kingdom of Heaven road is marked, defined by...

### **Demanding Discipleship.**

**“The word disciple occurs 269 times in the New Testament, Christian is found three times and was first introduced to refer precisely to disciples of Jesus...The New Testament is a book about disciples, by disciples, and for disciples of Jesus Christ.”** (Willard)

Obedience. Putting into practice...that is the emphasis of the parable of the two builders.

Sometimes when we are trying to get the point across to someone, when we want to be really clear about our instructions...we repeat the important parts.

“10 times in the last 14 verses of this Sermon, Jesus uses the words **“do”** or **“practice”**...does that give you an indicator of Jesus emphasis?

“Whoever hears these words of mine...” (**TITLE SLIDE**)...that’s the title of our series. The way Jesus finishes that sentence is **“...and puts them into practice.”**

**“It is quite literally nonsense to call Jesus “Lord” and not do what he said. Lord means nothing in such a case.”** (Willard)

Jesus ends his sermon with a call to action. **The challenge of Jesus is not simply to accept him or believe in him (as if rational acceptance was his fundamental mission). Rather, the whole point of the sermon is that people hear and then do what Jesus says.** (McKnight)

**Do not simply listen to the words and so deceive yourselves, do what it says.**

Which way do you choose?

And it's demanding. Home builders in the ancient world listening to Jesus tell his story, knew...they knew immediately, if you want a rock foundation, you'll have to get out your shovel and begin digging, scoop by scoop.

I remember one of the first times I went to the beach with Jenny's family. And I noticed these guys who plant rental umbrella's on the beach. Have you seen these guys? They plant an umbrella for you to sit under while you're at the beach. And at first I didn't really understand because I'm thinking can't you just buy one from Walmart and it's a beach, it's sand, just go push your umbrella down into the soft sand.

And I remember the first time I saw these guys go to plant an umbrella, he walks out of the back of his trailer with a massive machine-gun looking drill. It almost looks like a bazooka. I'm thinking "Dude, that is over-kill." And they use thing to drill way down into the sand. And then plant the umbrella way deep. But if you've been out on the beach before you'll know why...because there's always this breeze, this strong breeze blowing along the ocean.

And our family just kind of had this little beach tent thing, with little pegs you push into the ground. And that sea breeze, just pulls those little pegs right out. And so when we there it was miserable, one of us adults always had to be sitting there with the tent otherwise it would blow away. I know other people were looking around at

us, thinking, laughing, these people have no idea what they're doing. Eventually I was so embarrassed I joined the gawkers and just stayed away from the tent myself. "Those people over there..."

And so Jesus says, there are two ways. There's the way of the Master, the expert at life...or you can try just doing it any way you like.

It's a decision that we make regarding life as a whole and it's a decision we make in all of the choices we face each and every day. There's the way of rock foundations and there's the way of sand foundations...

When you go to open your mouth...there's the way of life or the way of destruction. When you respond to your co-worker or the dude speeds around you on a double yellow line...there's the way of life and the way of destruction.

With your thought life...there's the way of life and the way of destruction.

With your finances...

With your schedule/routine/habits...

Often our trouble is not knowing the right way to live, it's actually putting it into practice. What distinguishes one from the other, is the putting into practice. Both have heard the words of Jesus.

Second, I just want to remind us that...

## **II. Who said it, matters.**

The real question behind the sermon on the mount is, do you trust the speaker?

***"To respond to the Sermon on the Mount is not to respond to some good advice or self-help manual, or simply to a way of life it is to respond to Jesus."***

**(McKnigh)**

It is a response to the one speaking. Either Jesus is the Master of Life or he's not. Either he's the Messiah or he's just another teacher. Was reading a story, written by another Pastor the other day...he says...

*Some years ago my wife arranged for us to ride in a hot-air balloon as a birthday gift. We went to the field where the balloons ascended and got into a little basket with one other couple. We introduced ourselves and swapped vocational information. Then our pilot began the ascent. The day had just dawned—clear, crisp, cloudless. We could see the entire Canejo Valley, from craggy canyons to the Pacific Ocean. It was scenic, inspiring, and majestic.*

*But I also experienced one emotion I had not anticipated. Want to guess? Fear. I had always thought those baskets went about chest high, but this one only came up to our knees. One good lurch would be enough to throw someone over the side. So I held on with grim determination and white knuckles. I looked over at my wife, who does not care for heights at all, and relaxed a bit, knowing there was someone in the basket more tense than I was. I could tell, because she would not move—at all. During part of our flight there was a horse ranch on the ground directly behind her. I pointed it out because she loves horses, and, without turning around or even pivoting her head, she simply rolled her eyes back as far as she could and said, “Yes, it’s beautiful.” About this time I decided I’d like to get to know the kid who was flying this balloon. I realized that I could try to psyche myself up into believing everything would be fine, but the truth was we had placed our lives and destinies in the hands of the pilot.*

*Everything depended on his character and competence. I asked him what he did for a living and how he got started flying hot-air balloons. I was hoping for his former job to be one full of responsibilities—a neurosurgeon, perhaps, an astronaut who missed going up into space.*

*I knew we were in trouble when his response to me began, “Dude, it’s like this....” He did not even have a job! He mostly surfed.*

*He said the reason he got started flying hot-air balloons was that he had been driving around in his pickup when he'd had too much to drink, crashed the truck, and badly injured his brother. His brother still couldn't get around too well, so watching hot-air balloons gave him something to do.*

*“By the way,” he added, “if things get a little choppy on the way down, don't be surprised. I've never flown this particular balloon before, and I'm not sure how it's going to handle the descent.”*

*My wife looked over at me and said, “You mean to tell me we are a thousand feet up in the air with an unemployed surfer who started flying hot-air balloons because he got drunk, crashed a pickup, injured his brother, and has never been in this one before and doesn't know how to bring it down?”*

*Then the wife of the other couple looked at me and spoke—the only words either of them were to utter throughout the entire flight. You're a pastor. Do something religious. So I took an offering.*

But he ends his story like this...

*The great question at a moment like that is, Can I trust the pilot? I could try telling myself that everything would turn out okay. Facing the flight with a positive attitude would certainly make it a more pleasant journey. But the journey would be over soon. And the real issue concerned the dude who was flying this thing. Were his character and competence such that I could confidently place my destiny in his hands? Or, was it time to do something religious? (Ortberg “If you want to walk on Water you have to get out of the boat.” Pg. 11-13)*

The Sermon on the Mount really forces us to determine whether we trust the pilot. Are his character and competence such that I can confidently place my life in his hands?

**Whoever hears these words of mine...**

**When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed, because he taught as one who had authority.**

And there are all kinds of discussions about how did Jesus say what he said, in a way that was different, carried a different authority than the teachers of the law. Part of it may have been, likely was, He was God in human flesh. And so perhaps there was something “God-breathed”, something inherently significant, miraculous even about the way he taught.

I wonder if part of it, also had to do with the fact that Jesus was the one who not only taught, spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven life, but His life, his actions, lived it out....he put it into practice.

And there is something significant, authoritative, authentic in practicing what we preach. Either way, the significance of the words is not in the words themselves but the fact that they are the words of Jesus.

There is a story in...

**Matthew 16:13 – 16 - <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”**

Basically he’s saying to his disciples, “what do people think of me?”

**<sup>14</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”**

Some looked at Jesus, what he did, how he taught and they say things like...Oh, he's pretty impressive you know. He must be a prophet or something. Some said, Jesus was just a great teacher. Some say Jesus just a really nice guy. And even today people say those same kinds of things.

I encourage you, go and ask your friends what they think about Jesus. Some say Jesus makes a good role model. Some say Jesus was crazy. Some say Jesus was a myth.

There is a website, actually a book written about this concept (Judah Smith), but a website where people have been invited to post their responses...that same question is still around today...

**JESUS IS \_\_\_\_\_**

Currently, there are over 75,000 responses because when you bring up the name Jesus, people have an opinion. I went there and just looked up some of those responses...

And there are thousands of answers on there.

In fact, many historians agree that Jesus just might be history's most familiar (influential) figure.

In other words, if there were a way to measure the impact that a person had on the world, many historians say, Jesus would most certainly be near the top of the list.

A Yale historian, Jaroslav Pelikan wrote, **“Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western Culture for almost twenty centuries.”** (Orberg – Who is this man? Pg. 14)

H.G. Wells wrote, **“a historian like myself, who doesn’t even call himself a Christian, finds the picture centering irresistibly around the life and character of this most significant man.”** (Ortberg – Who is this man? Pg. 19-20)

There is something unique about Jesus and his impact on the world. And the Sermon on the Mount, the words of Jesus force us to decide what we are going to do with him.

Disciples are sharing, giving answers...easy test...

And then I kind of wonder if at this point Jesus stops abruptly and I can picture the disciples bumping into him. And he turns around to look at the disciples. All of a sudden, they know its about to get serious. Pretty quiet and Jesus get’s very personal. It’s easy to say what other people think.

**15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”**

Do you think I’m just another prophet? Do you think I’m just a good teacher? Do you think I’m a fake?

For each one of us, the Sermon on the Mount kind of brings us face to face with this same question. Who do you say I am? What will you make of Jesus?

Here’s why this is important...If Jesus is just a good teacher. Then you can listen to some of what he said, but if you don’t like other things he said, you don’t really need to pay attention to them. You can pick and choose what you like. You can even choose to completely ignore him. You don’t need to build your life around him. If Jesus was just another teacher...there’s no need to make time to study the sermon on the mount or any of the words in Scripture. Because it’s just another good book. If Jesus was just a teacher, there’s no need to make being in church and meeting

with His people, a priority for your life. Only go if you feel like it or if you think it will be fun or if your friends are going.

If that's what we believe about Jesus...then what he said and how he lived aren't really all that important.

"Who do you say that I am?" For a moment, it had to get really quiet as the disciples thought about that question.

And then little old Peter, speaks up for the group, and he throws out the M word.

**16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."**

Why is Peter's answer so significant? Big deal, he called Jesus the Messiah.

Jesus and these 12 young men...they are Jews, a small nation, in the Middle East who were often slaves to those around them. Slaves in Egypt, slaves to the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites. In Jesus time, slaves to the Romans. And all along, for hundreds of years, they held onto this crazy belief that one day, there would come a savior, a hero from their small little nation. The savior of the world. They wrote stories about him. They called him "the Messiah."

And throughout their several hundred years of existence there were many who claimed to be the Messiah of the Jews. And in each case these fake Messiah's and their followers ended in tombs, and hanging on Roman crosses. This was the story of the Jewish people. Fake Messiahs, unfulfilled promises, hanging on crosses.

You do not leave your family or build your entire life around some nice guy or a good teacher or just another prophet...unless you believe that person is THE MESSIAH. You see there are teachers and prophets and then there is THE MESSIAH. There are nice guys and good role models and then there is...THE MESSIAH.

The Messiah is the savior of the world. The Creator of the world in human flesh. God as a man. The perfect one who died for all of us imperfect one's. His story is the centerpiece of all history. And it makes the words he spoke and the life he lived more important than any other words or any other life.

And so to all of us in here: Who you say I am? Will you listen to the words of Jesus and put them into practice? Will you choose the way of life?