



Jesus' great sermon on the mount is all about discipleship. Disciples are more than hearers. Discipleship involves more than learning. Disciples follow, and Jesus has shown us the way throughout Matthew 5-7:

- The character of a disciple: the beatitudes (5:3-12)
- The influence of a disciple: salt and light (5:13-16)
- The righteousness of a disciple: Jesus and the law (5:17-20)
- The battles of a disciple: against anger and lust (5:21-30)
- The commitment of a disciple: marriage and honesty (5:31-37)
- The reactions of a disciple: retaliation and love (5:38-48)
- The aim of a disciple: praise and authenticity (6:1-6, 16-18)
- The prayers of a disciple: thoughtful and reverent (6:7-15)
- The heart of a disciple: treasures and anxieties (6:19-34)
- The relationships of a disciple: seeing and seeking (7:1-12)
- The way of a disciple: the few and the false (7:13-23)

But what will we do with what we have heard? Disciples are disciples because of the choice they have made. What choice? Let's listen carefully to the sermon's conclusion:

"Everyone then who _____ these words of mine and _____ them will be like a _____ man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does _____ do them will be like a _____ man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." (7:24-27)

What a powerful way to draw the mountain message to a close! Disciples hear and disciples act. Every hearer *chooses* what they will do with the words of Jesus.

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were _____ at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had _____, and not as their scribes. (7:28-29)

We have heard the words of the authoritative Son of God, so let's dig in and begin to apply them, that we might be sons and daughters of our Father who is in heaven.



For Class & Family Discussion:

1. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them..." Without a doubt, Jesus is speaking as one who had authority.
 - Why do you think "the crowds were astonished" (7:28) when Jesus finished these sayings?
 - What does Matthew mean when he tells us that Jesus was not teaching "as their scribes" (7:29)?
 - Take a moment to turn and scan the pages of Matthew's Gospel. What sort of things did Jesus do to prove that he had the authority to speak like he did throughout Matthew 5-7?
2. In what ways will hearing Jesus' words and doing them lead us to be like "wise" people who build their "houses" on "the rock"?
3. In what ways will hearing Jesus' words and not doing them cause us to be like "foolish" people who build their "houses" on "the sand"?
4. Of all the ways Jesus—the greatest teacher ever—could have drawn this sermon to a close, why do you think he concluded the way he did?