

**INTRODUCTION**

To summarize our series on the Sermon on the Mount, if you follow Christ you will exhibit spiritual bankruptcy, mourn over sin, put yourself second, hunger and thirst to have right standing with God, overflow with mercy, have an unmixed heart, be a peacemaker, suffer persecution for the sake of the Savior, be salt and light, choose to make heavenly things a priority over earthly things, trust in God, humility instead of judgment, persistent prayer; and, you will choose the narrow (difficult) road. It's a no-brainer that Jesus wants us to hear and do what He says. So why is it so difficult to live a life that is marked by the characteristics found in the Sermon on the Mount?

**SCRIPTURE**

*<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.*

Matthew 7:24-29

**GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. Share with your group a time when you made an unwise choice and discuss the consequences.
2. Read Matthew 7:24-29. Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a contrast between two people – those who hear His words and those who don't. What does He mean by "hear"? Is it listening, or does it involve more?
3. Read the following passages. How do these passages add to your understanding of Matthew 7:24-29?

Luke 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_

John 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:22-25 \_\_\_\_\_

James 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why is it so difficult to follow Christ's commands? Why is it so hard to love your enemies, to not judge, to show mercy, to not seek accolades, to not worry...?

*Study Questions for Community Groups*

- 5. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Do you rely more on your own wisdom than on God’s wisdom? If so, how can you change that?

**APPLICATION**

On Sunday, Aaron asked what it would look like to be a church that DOES the Word instead of just HEARING the Word. Read through the list below. Pray and think through these four challenges. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make these a reality in your life.

- I need to know His Words and instructions.
- I need to build habits where I lack discipline.
- I need to live an interruptable life.
- I need to think more of others and less of myself.

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

- 1. Look up the following passages and fill in the blanks. Was the person in the passage a hearer, or a hearer and a doer? Would your response have differed? If so, in what way?

<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	<b>PERSON</b>	<b>WHAT DID GOD SAY?</b>	<b>WHAT DID THIS PERSON DO?</b>	<b>WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?</b>
Genesis 6-7	NOAH			
Genesis 12:1-5 Hebrews 11:8-12	ABRAHAM			
Jonah 1-2	JONAH			
Genesis 19:12-29	LOT/LOT’S WIFE			
Acts 10	PETER			

- 2. Why is it so difficult to follow Christ’s commands? Why is it so hard to love your enemies, to not judge, to show mercy, to not seek accolades, to not worry...?
- 6. What do you think is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Look up Scripture references to support your answer.