

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The terrain is sandy and sparsely covered with small, dry bushes. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29

(Matthew 7:21-29)

“The way to respond to Jesus”

Outline — Four responses to Jesus:

1. The works response vv. 21-23
2. The obedient response vv. 24-25
3. The disobedient response vv. 26-27
4. The indecisive response vv. 28-29

1- The works response vv. 21-23

A. Observations:

- Recognition is NOT enough v. 21
 - “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’”
 - “shall enter the kingdom of heaven,”
 - “but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.”
- Works are NOT enough v. 22
 - “Many will say...”
 - Prophecy
 - Cast out demons
 - Doing many wonders “in Your name?”

1- The works response vv. 21-23

A. Observations:

- Recognition is NOT enough v. 21
- Works are NOT enough v. 22
- The result of the works response v. 23
 - “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you;’”
 - “depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

1- The works response vv. 21-23

B. Summary/Application:

- There are many who understand and even acknowledge Jesus as Lord. But that isn't enough.
- Throughout history there have been people who “do things for God”... But that isn't enough.
- Jesus pinpoints the issue saying, “I NEVER knew you”
- Which is better? Good works? Or Consistent fellowship?
- Do we ever put the cart before the horse in our relationship with God?

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2- The obedient response vv. 24-25

A. Observations:

- The right response v. 24a
 - “Therefore”
- The hearer and doer v. 24a
 - “whoever hears these sayings of Mine,” (what sayings?)
 - “and does them” (“be not hearers only but doers” James 1:22
*note the irony of this statement)
- The simile comparison vv. 24b-25

2- The obedient response vv. 24-25

B. Summary/Application:

- Jesus is laying out the right response to His sermon.
- Hearing isn't enough.
- Be a hearer and a doer. (cf. James 2)
- Specific to the context. Jesus' audience must do something about what they just heard. Only then would they see the kingdom.
- Those who heard the SotM should be wise builders

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1. The works response vv. 21-23
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3- The disobedient response vv. 26-27

A. Observations:

- The wrong response v. 26a
 - “But” (a contrastive conjunction)
- The hearer and NOT doer v. 26a
 - “whoever hears these sayings of Mine,”
 - “and does not do them” (what does this imply about the audience?)
- Simile comparison v. 26b-27
 - “and great was its fall.”

3- The disobedient response vv. 26-27

B. Summary/Application:

- Jesus is laying out the wrong response to the SotM.
- The tone suggests that this is what Jesus expects from many.
- Changing one's mind requires humility.
- Things that can cure pride and foster humility:
 - The Creator-creature distinction.
 - The omniscience of God (cf. Job).
 - Grace.

Outline — Four responses to Jesus:

1. The works response vv. 21-23
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4- The indecisive response vv. 28-29

A. Observations:

- The SotM concludes v. 28a
 - “and so it was” (Matthew the author, is now speaking).
 - “when Jesus had ended these sayings,”
- The people’s response v. 28b
 - “astonished at His teaching,”
- The reason for their response v. 29
 - “for He taught them as one having authority,”
 - “and not as the scribes.”

4- The indecisive response vv. 28-29

B. Summary/Application:

- What is the purpose of Jesus sermon? To astonish?
- What is the purpose of any sermon? To impress?
- The Jews recognized the authority.
- Matthew seems to be subtly foreshadowing.
- How should WE respond to sermons each Sunday?

Application:

- One type of response to Jesus is to get busy. Something gets misunderstood and good works are the new priority.
 - “repent from your sins”
 - “clean up your life”
 - “make Jesus Lord of your life”
 - None of these can save you or even help your situation. In fact, it makes it astonishingly worse!
- Another type of response is to love what Jesus has to say but no action is ever taken.

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“The way to respond to Jesus”



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