

Building a Life Solid in Jesus

Thomas Robinson, *Seeing Life Through Jesus' Eyes 13*, April 22, 2012

Matthew 7:21-29

²¹ “**Not everyone** who says to me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ will enter **the kingdom of heaven**, but the one who **does the will of my Father who is in heaven**.

²² On that day many will say to me, ‘**Lord, Lord**, did we not **prophecy** in your name, and cast out **demons** in your name, and do many **mighty works** in your name?’

²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you**; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

²⁴ Everyone then who **hears these words of mine and does them** will be like a **wise man** who **built his house on the rock**. ²⁵ 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**.

²⁶ And everyone who **hears these words of mine and does not do them** will be like a **foolish man** who built his house on the **sand**. ²⁷ 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**.”

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were **astonished at his teaching**, ²⁹ for **he was teaching them as one who had authority**, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 6:33

³³ “**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth** has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching them to observe** (keep) **all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹ If I speak in the **tongues of men and of angels**, but have not **love**, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have **prophetic powers**, and understand all **mysteries** and all **knowledge**, and if I have all **faith**, so as to remove mountains, but have not **love**, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not **love**, I gain nothing.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

¹⁹ Do not put out the **Spirit's fire**; ²⁰ do not treat **prophecies** with contempt, ²¹ but **test them all**; hold on to what is good, ²² reject whatever is bad.

1 John 4:1

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 4:23-25

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming **the good news of the kingdom** and **healing every disease** and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So **his fame spread** throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, ... and he healed them. ²⁵ And **great crowds followed him** from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Astonishment at Jesus' Voice of Authority

The crowds flocked to Jesus to get the touch of healing power. They could imagine such power leading to a kingdom. They were left astonished at his authority – something very different: A vision of life, God, faith, piety, reality; a call to a new way to live, to trust, hope; a challenge not just for the super pious but for everyone – real, solid life.

The words he used! “But I say to you...” “Lord, Lord” (OT = Lord Yahweh). Doing the will of “my Father in heaven” is the same as doing “these words of mine.” They came for healings but learned these were signs of a God whose Kingdom was a distinct challenge.

Here was the first clear statement of the Kingdom coming through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection: “all authority...make disciples...all that I have commanded... I am with you.”

Not Everyone ... “I Never Knew You!”

Jesus knew how intoxicating manifestations of power are. His disciples wanted to be great, stand tall as prophet and miracle worker, fighter of demonic power (Romans, Gentiles). As strongly as possible Jesus warns against such a focus on dramatic power. It misleads because we want the power we know through control, conflict, fame, possessions, etc. “On that day” as God's kingdom comes [they don't know yet of cross, resurrection, etc.], it works from the deep reality of God's self-giving love. It is for but not from this world.

This was and is one of the greatest challenges of the church. There was real power as God's Spirit broke in, but it came through a hard road of the cross showing God's love. Many wanted the power and prophecy without self-giving love. Loving and testing were crucial. Many claimed Jesus' name and power, but they did not flow from Jesus' vision of God.

House on the Rock – Hearing These Words of Mine and Doing Them

Don't just listen. Put “these words of mine” into practice! In the final parable, doing Jesus' words makes all the difference. Between reality and delusion, rock and sand.

So what does he mean? Look back at the message: God's blessing/kingdom: This is where the God's story has been headed. You are salt/light: God's glory in your beautiful deeds. Refuse anger, rage, contempt. Choose reconciliation even over worship. Don't let power, coveting, lust determine relationships, but faithfulness. Tell the truth without reinforcement. No bargaining with God. Refuse retaliation, violence, possessiveness. Take another blow; give more than was taken from you. Don't let possessions and defensiveness control you. Love to the uttermost, even enemies. This is the heart of God. Never settle for less. Your standard is God's perfection. My promise is God's perfection. Focus on a real relationship with God not on a display of piety. Secrecy helps. Pray for God's realm to come on earth not vice versa. Forgive! Find the freedom God gives. Possessions are temporary stewardship. Don't let them be master. Only God is master! Practice trusting God. See his work everywhere, birds and lilies. Break free of anxiety knowing that he knows what you need. Your life is bigger than things. Seek his kingdom. You're not the judge. You're self-deceived. Trust God and be bold: ask, seek, knock. The road looks hard but it leads to life – the very best, beauty, meaning, security, God.

Every house gets hit by storms and trouble. No exemption. What the world gives as security is part of the storm. Only a life founded in the love that is the heart of God will stand.