

Life Church Message 2011-10-30 - Practice What Jesus Preached (Part 2)

- **Practice What Jesus Preached (Part 2)**
Pastor Rocklyn Clarke - Sunday October 30, 2011
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- **New Material**

- **Practice What Jesus Preached (Part 2)**

- **Preparation - Matthew 7:21-29**

- **Select the Passage - Matthew 7:21-29**

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

“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. 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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

- **Study the Passage**

- NIV
- Hebrew Study Bible
- KJV
- The Message
- NASB
- RSV

- **Discover the Exegetical Idea**

- Matthew 7:21-23
- Matthew 7:24-27
 - Subject
How do wise and foolish people respond to the requirements for entering the kingdom of heaven?
 - Complement
Wise people last all the way to the end by putting Jesus' words into practice; foolish people don't put his words into practice and don't last.
 - Complete Exegetical Idea
Your faithfulness in putting Jesus' words into practice expresses your commitment to entering the Kingdom.

- Matthew 7:28-29
- **Analyze the Exegetical Idea - Matthew 7:24-27**
 - Explain It: What does this mean?
 - It's not enough to call Jesus "Lord". We must actually treat him as "Lord" by being about his business - doing the Father's will. We must do the Father's will.
 - Some people trust in their external accomplishments but are never actually known by Jesus. They won't make it into the Kingdom.
 - Many will say to Jesus in that day: "But Lord"
 - They can already tell that things aren't looking good for them.
 - They appeal to accomplishments that generate praise from others.
 - Jesus says "I never knew you!". Apparently Jesus' "knowing you" is connected with being a doer of the Father's will.
 - Their appeal "but Lord . . ." indicates that they didn't know Jesus either.
 - Jesus is always doing the Father's will. When we begin to do the Father's will we are partnering with Jesus and he comes to "know" us - experientially and relationally. We also grow to know him!
 - The word "Therefore" linking the two passages means that the second paragraph explains how we should deal with the implications of the first one.
 - Houses have a superstructure (the visibly obvious part of the house) and a foundation (the part that you don't see unless you look for it).
 - **Luke 6:46-49**

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”
 - The key to doing the Father's will (and therefore entering the kingdom of heaven) is putting Jesus' words into practice. This should be our foundation - dig deep!
 - In this parable:

- The man represents anyone facing the message of the Kingdom.
- The house represents our options to enter the Kingdom.
- Building on the rock represents putting Jesus' words into practice.
- The rain coming down, streams rising, and winds blowing represent the things that everyone encounters and that destroy the opportunity to enter the Kingdom for some.
 - The only way to destroy our opportunity to enter the Kingdom is to destroy our commitment to follow Jesus.
 - Jesus mentions this in the parable of the sower - Matthew 13:1-23
 - Cares of this world
 - Deceitfulness of wealth
 - Here are some examples:
 - Betrayal by a spiritual leader or by a brother or sister in Christ.
 - Loss of a loved one - especially if due to violence.
 - Financial or material hardship
 - Social ostracism
- Those who call him "Lord" but who have not chosen to do the Father's will have chosen not to be known by Jesus. He calls them evildoers.
 - **Luke 13:22-28**
- Prove It: Is it True? Do I believe it?
 - **Matthew 6:1** - Don't do your acts of righteousness for show. "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
 - Some people want affirmation from others more than they want God's approval. - **John 12:37-43**
 - There are at least two phases to discipleship with Jesus:
 - Phase 1: "Follow me"
 - Phase 2: "Eat my flesh and drink my blood." - John 6:25-71
 - People who get to phase 1 sometimes get caught up in the human connections and neglect their relationship with God.
 - Doing the Father's will is more than procedural - it's relational.

- **Colossians 3:15-17** - give thanks as you serve the Lord.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father through him.**
- Consider the various areas dealt with in the Sermon on the Mount:
 - Anger
 - Lust
 - Divorce
 - Swearing & Oaths - artificially projecting credibility
 - Seeking Revenge
 - Hating Enemies
 - Hypocrisy
 - Prioritizing Treasures on Earth
 - Worrying About Resources
 - Judging Others
- These are the areas where ministries fail both publicly and privately.
- Apply It: What difference does it make? So What?
 - You want Jesus to "know you".
 - Bring him your "FIGS".
 - Talk to God
 - as you do his will.
 - as you read his Word.
 - as you go through your day.
 - Chase God rather than a "church image".
 - Failed ministries - especially the more public ones.
 - Doing the Father's will is not merely checking off items on a list. It is experiential and relational. Jesus comes to know us as we join him in doing the Father's will.
- **Formulate the Homiletical Idea:**
What's Your Foundation?
- **Determine the Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
 - Bring God their "FIGS".

- Expose their interior life to God.
- Make the Sermon on the Mount part of their lifestyle.
- Collaborate with other brothers and sisters who are trying to do the same.
- **Decide How to Accomplish This Purpose**
 - Explain the meaning of the passage.
 - Offer corroboration interspersed with the explanation.
 - Present the 4 key purposes of the sermon.
- **Outline the Sermon**
- **Introduction**
 - Welcome to another service at the Hampton Inn & Suites.
 - Welcome Cards -
 - “I want to call your attention to the Welcome Card that you were given on your way into the auditorium”
 - These cards do two things for us:
 - They help us get to know our new visitors better.
 - They also give anyone (visitors or members) a chance to express a need or to give us feedback.
 - By filling it out you will help us to better serve you.
 - We're going to provide time for you to complete the cards at the end of our service, but we encourage you to start filling them out now.
 - **Please use this card:**
 - if you're a **first time visitor** or if you've **never** filled one out before,
 - to tell us about a **decision you made** today,
 - to ask us for more information, or to give us **feedback**.
 - **Please include your contact information** unless we already have it. At the **end of service** we'll ask you to complete the card and then place it in the designated box or give it to someone from our staff on your way out.
- Transition
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- **Read the Passage - Matthew 7:21-29**

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

“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. 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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

- **Exegetical Idea: Your faithfulness in putting Jesus' words into practice expresses your commitment to entering the Kingdom.**

- **What does this mean?**

- It's not enough to call Jesus "Lord". We must actually treat him as "Lord" by being about his business - doing the Father's will. We must do the Father's will.
- Many people fail in this area and miss the Kingdom:
 - Some of them trust in their external accomplishments or in affirmation from others but are never actually known by Jesus.
 - The Bible warns us about this:
 - **Matthew 6:1** - Don't do your acts of righteousness for show.
“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
 - **John 12:37-43** - Some people want affirmation from others more than they want God's approval.
Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”
For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: “He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them.” Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.
Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. **But**

because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

- Many will say to Jesus in that day: "But Lord . . ."
 - They can already tell that things aren't looking good for them, so they appeal to accomplishments that generate praise from others.
 - Jesus says "I never knew you!". Apparently Jesus' "knowing you" is connected to being a doer of the Father's will.
 - Their appeal "but Lord . . ." indicates that they didn't know Jesus either.
 - Some servants know Jesus, but there are others who don't. - **Luke 19:11-27**

While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

"He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

"The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

"Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

"The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'

"His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

"Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'

"His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

"Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

"Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

"He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them — bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

- Jesus is always doing the Father's will. When we begin to do the Father's will we are partnering with Jesus and he comes to "know" us - experientially and relationally. We also grow to know him!

- The word "Therefore" linking the two passages means that the second paragraph explains how we should deal with the implications of the first one.
- Houses have a superstructure (the visibly obvious part of the house) and a foundation (the part that you don't see unless you look for it).
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“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”
- The key to doing the Father's will (and therefore entering the kingdom of heaven) is putting Jesus' words into practice. This should be our foundation - dig deep!
- In this parable:
 - The man represents anyone facing the message of the Kingdom.
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 - The only way to destroy our opportunity to enter the Kingdom is to destroy our commitment to follow Jesus.
 - Jesus mentions this in the parable of the sower - Matthew 13:1-23
 - Cares of this world
 - Deceitfulness of wealth
 - Here are some examples along with some biblical responses:
 - Betrayal by a spiritual leader or by a brother or sister in Christ.
 - Forgive
 - Confront
 - Marital difficulty
 - Cut off lust at the source.
 - Don't divorce.
 - Loss of a loved one - especially if due to violence.
 - Forgiveness
 - Love your enemies
 - Financial or material hardship

- Don't worry - trust God.
- Social ostracism
 - You're blessed when people criticize you for Jesus' sake.
- Those who call him "Lord" but who don't put Jesus' words into practice have chosen to not do the Father's will and have therefore chosen not to be known by Jesus. He calls them evildoers. - **Luke 13:22-28**

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

- **Homiletical Idea: Practice What Jesus Preached**

- **Determine the Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**

- Bring God their "FIGS" (Fear, Inadequacy, Guilt, Shame)
- Expose their interior life to God.
- Make the Sermon on the Mount part of their lifestyle.
- Collaborate with other brothers and sisters who are trying to do the same.

- **Bring God your "FIGS".**

- You want Jesus to "know you".
- Bring him your "FIGS": fear, inadequacy, guilt, and shame
- Overcome them with "FIGS": faith, intercession, grace, and sanctification
 - Grace enables me to push past my fear, inadequacy, guilt, and shame to do God's will.
 - Philippians 2:12-13.

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do according to his good pleasure"
- Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed in the garden until they sinned. God wants you to approach him naked and unashamed

- Distribute index cards so that congregation can do a FIGS inventory.
- **Expose your interior life to God**
 - Don't hold back out of fear of not being holy enough. Take the risk of entering God's presence.
 - Talk to God
 - as you do his will.
 - as you read his Word.
 - as you go through your day.
 - Chase God rather than worldly status or even church status.
 - Don't bash out the "warning light" - that still small voice in your ear.
 - Jesus is known through conversation (i.e. prayer) and through sharing in his work - which involves putting his words into practice.
 - Knowing and being taught by God
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”
 - "They will all be taught by God - Isaiah 54:11-15; John 6:45
 - How are we going to put Jesus' words into practice? By "following rules" or by living in God's presence?
 - Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest . . . - **Matthew 11:25-30**
 - If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. - **John 7:37-39**
 - Living water is water suitable for Mikva. You become a source of water that washes others.
 - Fans of a team vs. followers of a team. Use fantasy football as a metaphor for followers.
 - Jesus would rather have followers than fans. He appreciates someone who can say “Lord this is a hard teaching”.

- **Make the Sermon on the Mount part of your lifestyle.**
 - There are at least two phases to discipleship with Jesus:
 - Phase 1: "Follow me"
 - Phase 2: "Eat my flesh and drink my blood." - John 6:25-71
 - People who get to phase 1 sometimes get caught up in the human connections and neglect their relationship with God.
 - Doing the Father's will is not merely checking off items on a list. It is experiential and relational. Jesus comes to know us as we join him in doing the Father's will.
 - The Bible is a movie of evolving relationships with God and not a static picture of rules.
 - The paradigm that people bring to the Bible is often unspoken.
 - World View
 - Church is where you go on Sundays.
 - Church is the bride and body of Christ.
 - I read the Bible to understand what a select group of people experienced as they followed Jesus 2000 years ago. This helps me understand how to follow him today.
 - If you will take the time to understand it and apply it to your life (i.e. "put it into practice") the Word you hear on Sunday will bring life to the people you share it with.
 - Insight:
 - How you do as a Christian depends on how you put God's Word into practice in your life.
 - It's all about your diet - not rules. Which essential vitamins are you getting? Which ones are you missing? This helps to explain the problem of failure in the lives of believers.
 - A house can collapse for various reasons: poor foundation, weak joints, rotting timbers, etc.
- **Collaborate with other brothers and sisters who are trying to do the same.**
 - You need partners!
 - Don't hold back out of fear of not seeming spiritual enough. Take the risk of opening up in fellowship.
- **Conclusion**
 - Doing the Father's will is more than procedural - it's relational.

- **Colossians 3:15-17** - give thanks as you serve the Lord.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

- Unlike the other teachers of the law, Jesus taught as one who had authority. Let's submit to that authority by fully embracing him.

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- **Altar Call / Welcome Cards / Communion ?**

- Welcome Cards - refer to script
- We're almost ready to close this portion of our service, but first we want to give you a chance to respond to what you've heard.
- Earlier in the service we mentioned the welcome cards and we encouraged you to begin filling them out.
- Right now we want you to complete your welcome card. We especially want you to use this card if:
 - if you're a first time visitor
 - if you've never filled one out before,
 - if you want to tell us about a decision you made today,
 - if you want to ask us for more information, or to give us feedback.
- Please be sure to include your up to date contact information unless we already have it.

- **MC & Worship Team continue with tithes, offerings, and worship**

- **Benediction - Numbers 6:24-26**

““The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.””

- **Men's Prayer**

- **Life Group Material**

- **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#).
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- **Matthew 7:21-29**

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

“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. 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- What is your plan for putting Jesus' words into practice? Which of his words are you working on now? Which ones will you work on next?
- Do you talk to God as you do his will? Do you talk to him throughout the day? Do you listen for his response? Discuss.

- **Luke 19:11-27**

While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’

“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’

“He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

“The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’

“‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’

“His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’

“Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’

“His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You

knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?

"Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

"'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

"He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them — bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- How are you handling the gifts and resources God has given you? Are you doing so in a way that builds your relationship with God or in a way that avoids a relationship with him?

- **Matthew 11:25-30**

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- Jesus said his yoke is easy and his burden is light. What does this mean to you? Do you really believe it? Discuss.

- **John 7:37-39**

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- Do you expect streams of living water to flow from you? How do your expectations in this area affect the way you do or don't pursue your relationship with God?

- **Scriptures For 10/30/2011 Life Church Sermon**

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Matthew 7:21-29

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Matthew 6:1

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

John 12:37-43

Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: “He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them.” Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Luke 19:11-27

While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’

“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’

“He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

“The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’
“Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’
“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’
“His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’
“Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’
“His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’
“Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’
“‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’
“He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them — bring them here and kill them in front of me.’”

Luke 6:46-49

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Luke 13:22-28

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”
He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’
“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’
“Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’
“**But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’**
“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.
“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke

upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as[a] the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.