



Series: Unexpected Messiah

Passage Mathew 7:7-29

Title: 5 Practical Ways to Walk with Jesus

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 6/21/2020

Discussion Starter –Why is the Gospel offensive to some people, especially those who do not have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? What are some methods for communicating the Gospel Message to those who might be offended? List a few instructions contained in the Sermon on the Mount that might help us to overcome some people’s initial negative reaction to the Gospel Message and Jesus?

Praying God’s Will results in Good Gifts (verses 7:7-112)

- What is Jesus instructing when he says “ask, seek, knock”? (See also Matthew 6:10-13)
- Sometimes God does not grant our requests when we ask. How does Matthew 6:10-13 help us to understand why we may not always receive what we ask for in prayer? (See also James 4:3)
- Is it wrong to pray for something that is outside of God’s will? Do you think God wants to hear all of your desires? Even those that may not fall within God’s will? (see also Matthew 26:39)
- What gift has God given to us that helps us discern God’s will? (See Luke 11:13). How did the Israelites in the Old Testament discern God’s will?

Trust: Jesus is the Only entrance to eternal Life (Verses 7:13-14)

- What/who is the “narrow gate”? (See also John 10:9). Why might some see this truth as offensive?
- How might the today’s American dream be antithetical to walking through narrow gate? Do you think the American dream necessarily destructive? Why or why not?

Test: Investigate Outcomes not Outward Appearances (Verses 7:15-7:20)

- How can we discern the intentions of people that attempt to deceive those following Jesus (false teachers and others who prey on the congregation)? (Verses 15-20). How is it possible to recognize bad fruit? (See also Galatians 5:22-23)

Together: We are Known through a Relationship with Jesus; not Religion (Verses 7:21-23)

- JC taught that worship is more than just showing up on Sunday, or going through the motions. How do we build a relationship with Jesus? Why is this important? (See also Matthew 6:1-18).

Truth: Build Your Life on the Foundation of Jesus (Verses 7:24-29)

- Paraphrase the metaphor of the house built on the two foundations (sand and rock). How can a close relationship with Jesus help us when we encounter difficulties? Why is it important to build this foundation before we encounter trouble? (See 1 Peter 4:12-13)