

SERMON NOTES
(1/29/12 - Abridged Talking Points)

Intro:

- Seminary Finals! Didn't like final tests (long essays)...write everything you know. Each class could read 2,000 pages of reading. So much to think about?
- Can you narrow the focus down some? Not give me the answers. I really want to learn to grow to mature. I just want to understand what the most important material is and spend my time learning and doing that. **Study Guide**
- Disconnected teacher...too general...random testing. No connection between what I was reading and how it impacts how I do life.
- Connected teacher...made work but cared that you learned it...got it...lived it. Kept most important in front of me, pushed me, reminded me, helped me know how to learn...not just that I studied.
- On test (essay) day...I was ready. I knew how to think, how to reason. Also knew why it was important and how to think it out in real life. Passed the test. Made it to the next level. **It was crucial to know what the most important ideas were.**

- Ever think ...make most of my life? What are the most important ideas? When you boil it all down, what matters most...what will I be evaluated on...
- If we could understand this...Live fully alive...fully productive...fully satisfying? Live way made to. If we could know this...would it make a difference?
- What would that look like?
- **Live life with the end in mind.**
- The Judgment will be an evaluation of the quality with which we lived our lives...did with what we were given...live according to the Creator's design?
- Great news today! The One who will be giving the final exam tells us what will be on it. He gives **a study guide**...

MATTHEW 7:15-23

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

- Be alert...not naïve
- Those claiming to be spiritual leaders, speaking for God. There are false ones out there. Strategically placed by the enemy...
- Outside appearance and inside reality don't match...its about self not sheep
- Context: they teach others to walk in the broad way...to walk like everyone else. At first looks right but upon closer look...

¹⁷ Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

- What is the fruit and how do you tell if it is good? Selfish? Relationships?
- Fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

²¹ "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.

- (First to ministers then to others) I am not Lord to everyone who thinks I am. There are those who call Him Lord who are not His and don't know Him.
- They are deceiving themselves. Might be deceived by another. Victim of bad teaching. Believe something strongly that is not true. A vast gulf between what they think and what is reality. Day after week after month after year...not real...
- The person who gets welcomed into heaven is the person who gave his life to doing the will of God. God notices what you do, your goals...are they His goal, aim, purpose?
- Choices matter, not predetermined for you

²² 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?'

- (First to the minister, then to others) A sneak peak at a conversation at the judgment. The One who will be judging gives us a sneak look at what He wants...what He will say...what we shouldn't say.
- We did what we believed you told us to do...we thought we did with your help, blessing
- Very surprised...shocked...foolish...deep disappointment...regret ... anger...deep sadness
- Very religious, very busy, ministry focused. Not what He was looking for.

²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

- A day of reckoning, no more pretenses, no more fooling self and others or by others.
- Judgment a conversation with an all knowing, loving God.
- Notice what is not here: no more patience, no new mercy, no new grace, no 2nd chances, no love wins out...love alone will not get you in. Grace/mercy given now...utilize it to discover truth and organize your life under it, now. Patience and 2nd chances given now
- Chosen based on relationship...not religion...obedience not ministry.
- Works without relationship won't get you in.
- Had good intentions. No...'well you thought you were doing right...you tried...come on in.'
- How do claim to know Him not do the Father's will? How minister to others and not know
- Ministry without relationship is being an 'evildoer'.

NOTICE:

²¹ "...only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven and ²³ "...I never knew you..."

- Good fruit is not preaching and the spectacular stuff (demons and miracles). Don't let these impress you...convince you...
- **Good fruit = an active relationship to Jesus and a life committed to obeying His will.**
- **The Judgment test will have two questions. Know (intimately) Jesus and do exactly what He said?**

²⁴ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man...

- He is telling us what is on the test...the point of evaluation...the area to focus on...
- Does it make a difference in your life to know ahead of time?
- What if someone taking a test...knew ahead to study certain area...and didn't? Wise? No... Jesus said listen and make changes...while you can.
- Wisdom is making adjustments now... **The Judgment Test has two questions.**
- Are you focusing on these two things?

- Yes...wonderful.
 - No...how do you get started? Or re-focus? (**practice test: Evaluate, Identify, Change**).
 - Relationship (This is major important)? Time together and conversation, read, study...Evaluate...Identify...Change
 - Obedience (This is major important)? Areas?...yes...celebrate. Areas?...no...Evaluate...Identify one at a time and Change.
 - Time for this kind of relationship? Create it. Kick some stuff out.
 - Courage for this kind of obedience? Ask for it. Do it.
-
- **Imagine then:** standing before Him one day and having spent your life cultivating that relationship and doing everything He told you to do? Clear conscience, excited...
 - **Imagine now:** how much more enjoyable life could be if we had a Divine Companion...someone we talked to about everything...made time for everyday...not because have to but because want to? Think about what He would say to us if we slowed down, made time? Loves us, believes in us, proud of us, cares for us, answers, courage, strength, wisdom...
 - What would be different in our lives if our goal was to do God's will in every area? Wouldn't be getting self in trouble, have to redo so many things, more blessing, less guilt, less frustration...peace, joy
 - **Imagine now:** what our church could be like if on our own we lived like this and then came together to worship...to serve our community...to encourage each other?
 - Worship here would be a continuation of every-day worship.
 - Serving community would have direction and gifting
 - Encouraging each other would be genuine, make a difference.

Prayer:

- Admit, apologize, turn away from it...begin
- Busy, crowded, not sure how...read, talk, hang out with those who are there.
- Area not obeying in currently. Admit, apologize, turn away from it, begin...