**Foundation of True Discipleship**

(Matt. 7:24-27)

**Thesis:** How We **think** affects **faith**, **action**, and **example**.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The title of this message is, **“Foundation of True Discipleship”**.

2. Augustine “Sermon on the Mount” (Matt. 5-7).

a. These three chapters are ‘foundational’ as it pertains to Kingdom Identity-

-what it means walk and to live each day in the Presence of God.

b. Jesus wants to demonstrate what it really means to **become** disciples, and

afterward to demonstrate the **evidence** of genuine discipleship.

3. In February we began to explore the prayer of Jesus for the restoration of His

glory (John 17:1-5; Phil. 2:5-11).

a. “Let **this mind** be in you…” (Phil. 2:5), and this goes back to the very

foundational principles of what Jesus teaches here in this text (I Cor.

2:16)-- the “**mind** of Christ”-- two different words, both of which refer to

how we **understand** what we **think** and what that means in a practical

sense in our everyday reality.

4. Jesus preaching and teaching ministry to the multitude (crowd) that has

gathered around the area, takes a seat (as was the custom of a Rabbi--

teacher), his “disciples” gathered around him (Matt. 4:23-25; 5:1).

a. It was not “fame” in the sense we think of, but simply the “news” had

spread and people were curious about this teacher and the essence of His

message (Matt. 7:28, 29)

b. Notice the specific “audience” that was the focus of His attention (Matt.

5:2)--the “crowds” were there, but His “disciples” were the one being

taught

5. Jesus begins with the pronouncement of 9 “blessings” or more accurately,

what it takes to have the kind of “happiness” that only God can give--(Matt.

5:53-11).

a. “Blessed” *(makarios)*--It is a descriptive word that is better translated as

‘happy’--but not as the result of ‘happenstance’ or outward situations and

circumstances of life--but rather the ‘happiness’ that **only** comes and

arises from having a relationship with God--‘happiness’ defined by God.

1) If I only had a bigger house, nicer car, better **things**.

2) This ‘happiness’ is all about how God takes **who** we are (character), and

transforms every part of our being (Rom. 12:2).

b. Discipleship involves *“one who comes under discipline for instruction in*

*righteousness”*

c. The very first of these pronouncements of ‘blessed’ (happy) involves the

foundational *basis* from which everything else arise.

6. One translation (Matt. 5:3), *“Happy are those* ***conscious of their***

***spiritual need****, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens”*

a. “poor in spirit” means the recognition of that which is lacking in the

innermost parts of our being, an emptiness that **only** God can fill up.

b. We cannot know the value of what God wants to give us until we first

understand just how ‘spiritually bankrupt’ we are without Him.

**THE SOLID FOUNDATION**

1. Jesus lays the “foundation” of how it is that true ‘discipleship’ is built (Matt.

7:24)

a. Notices the relationship between ‘hearing’ and ‘doing’--the steps we take in

our **actions** come from **listening** to what Christ has said (James 1:22).

b. Israel was given “the law” and looked toward it as the means of their

‘justification’ before God (Rom. 2:13, 17; 10:1-4).

1) They could not be ‘justified’ through “dead works” (Heb. 6:1; 9:14).

2) Faith comes by ‘hearing’ (Rom. 10:17).

3) The ‘hearing’ of what Jesus was teaching had to be rooted in genuine

*faith* otherwise it would have been worthless (James 2:20).

c. The “foundation” for genuine discipleship is that our life is built on the

solid foundation of Gods’ Word (Psa. 119:105; Matt. 4:4)--the “rock”

2. The strength of the foundation will be tested by difficult circumstances of life

(Matt. 7:25).

a. The extent of these difficult circumstances is the process through which we

learn to trust God each day. (James 1:1-8).

b. The assurance is given that IF our lives are built upon the solid foundation

of God’s Word it will STAND through whatever problems, circumstances,

and situations we face in life.

c. Discipleship is the ‘awareness’ of knowing that God is the One who brings

us through--emotional, financial, relational, etc problems.

**THE WEAK FOUNDATION**

1. Jesus demonstrates the consequences of what happens when we do not have

a strong foundation.

a. It is “whoever” over against “everyone”

b. It is “wise” in comparison with the “foolish”

1) Notice that both were present to “hear” what Jesus was teaching.

2) The “message of the cross” is “foolishness” to those perishing (I Cor.

1:18; Rom. 1:16)---same message different perspective.

2. Those who “hear” but do not have actions consistent with what they have

heard the message to say--have no real foundation upon which to stand.

a. People have “opinions” “theories” “philosophies” etc--but no solid

foundation (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23).

b. It is easy to go our own way while things seem “good” (Psa. 119:67).

3. When problems situations and circumstances arise, and our lives are not built

upon knowing and practicing what the Word of God says, the house of our

lives cannot stand (Matt. 7:27).

**ISRAEL THE EXAMPLE**

1. God used the nation of Israel to draw a vivid picture of what it means to have

been given revelation, God’s Word, and what happens when they “heard” the

message of “the law” and the prophets but did not take heed to be willing and

obedient (Isa. 1:19)

a. As a nation, the “northern kingdom” was invaded by the Assyrians in 722

BCE

b. As a nation, the “southern kingdom” was invaded by the Babylonians in

586 BCE

c. The final judgment of the nation came when the Roman armies

surrounded Jerusalem, destroyed the temple in 70 CE

2. God speaks to the church through the example of what happened to Israel.

3. God speaks to each believer through the examples of those whose personal

lives were defeated through sin and disobedience to God’s Word.

4. If we love Christ we will keep His commandments (John 14:15; 15:10; I John

5:2)

**CONCLUSION**

1. Are we the “crowd” or are we “disciples” who have come to learn, to do, and to

be?

2. How prepared are we to have the ‘mind of Christ’ in facing our daily

problems, circumstances, and situations?

3. Is the foundation of our life rooted in both faith and obedience to God in our

thoughts, words, and actions?

4. Prayer