

Following Jesus

Jesus Says: A Series on the Sermon on the Mount Part 1

Matthew 7:24-29

Hilltoppers for Christ | Worship Wednesday | 8.23.17

Introduction:

- Welcome. We are so honored that you have decided to be with us tonight.
- HFC has meant so much to me over the years
 - Owned my own faith
 - Met my wife
 - Felt the call to ministry
- On an August night in 2007, my best friend and I were walking around campus looking for our classes when someone stopped and invited me to HFC. I've been involved ever since.
- This house is open for you to come and hang out.
 - In between classes
 - Cook in our kitchen
 - Group projects
- We want to be a ministry that is here to serve you in any way we can. If ever need anything, let me, Jonathan, or Emily know. Our contact info is in the bulletins
- My prayer for all of you is that this school year will be a year where God works in your life and you grow in your commitment to him.

If you were going to spend time with Jesus for a couple of hours, what what you do or bring?

- An open mind
- Notebook
- This semester we're getting the chance to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Sermon on the Mount

- This semester we will be going through the Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew 5-7.
- This is the longest speech/sermon/uninterrupted words of Jesus in the Bible. If you have a red-lettered Bible or are looking at a red-lettered Bible app, this will be all red.
- Many believe this to be some of the most important texts to following Jesus in the whole Bible. In other words, if you want to know what it means to be a Christian, read the Sermon on the Mount. If you want to be a follower of Jesus, do this sermon.
- The Sermon on the Mount happened on a mountain.
 - "Bible readers connect *mountain* with Moses."¹

¹ Scot McKnight, *Sermon on the Mount* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 22.

- What was significant about Moses?
 - Led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt
 - Gave God's people God's Law
- This is very significant. Like Moses, Jesus is ushering in God's new law.
- This is a pivotal moment in the history of the world.
- Jesus, God's Son, God in the flesh, the incarnation of God, Immanuel, the Messiah has come down and has delivered God's new law, the law of the Kingdom of God, the law of the land of which Jesus reigns has come.

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- Starting with the end.
 - I am really bad at ruining TV shows. I will look up on Wikipedia and "accidentally" ruin the TV show.
 - We will start at the end of Jesus' sermon. The end of this sermon shows the significance of the whole sermon.
- Hear what Jesus says.
 - Actively listen to Jesus. Devote yourselves to prayer and Bible reading.
 - Who are you listening to? Jesus or the world?
- Do what Jesus says.
 - As Randy Harris put it, this is not the "Suggestions on the Mount."²
 - Randy Harris also says, "If Jesus tells you that you can, then it's not a question of ability. It's only a question of will."³
 - You are expected to do these things.
 - It is going to be extremely hard. Doing some of these teachings will be the hardest things to do in your life.
 - But God gives us his power and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is the ultimate authority.
 - Jesus is the Christ - King
 - We all have an ultimate authority (job, major, friends, relationship)
 - You will please your ultimate authority at all costs
 - Jesus is to be your ultimate authority. Every decision you make should go through the filter of Jesus being Lord.
 - People with authority are often in positions of authority because of their expertise.
 - So-and-so is an authority on stamps
 - Jesus is ultimate authority of this world because he is the Creator. He knows how his creation is to work.
- This year at HFC we are going to do our best to hear and do what Jesus says.

² Randy Harris, *Living Jesus: Doing What Jesus Says in the Sermon on the Mount* (Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers, 2012), 14.

³ *Ibid.*, 26.

How will we (at HFC) follow Jesus this year?

- Our mission is to “**Love God. Love People. Grow in Christ.**” These are the core convictions of us here at HFC.
- **Love God.**
 - The Greatest Command is found in Mark 12
 - Worship Wednesdays
 - Every week we will come together to open up the Bible, the Word of God and listen to God.
 - I promise to you that I will work hard every week to bring a good talk to y’all, but even if I do bring a bad sermon, here is what I can promise that won’t be bad: Every week we will come together and
 - We will sing praises to God.
 - We will pray.
 - We also want to invite you to our sponsoring church Greenwood Park Church of Christ
- **Love People.**
 - Guys and Girls Groups
 - These will meet on Mondays at 7pm at HFC. Emily and Jonathan will be leading these.
 - We must be outward-focused. It is so easy to become inwardly-focused, to be all about ourselves. We must fight against this. We are not here to be comfortable. We are here to
 - First Saturday Breakfast
 - HFC teams up with Community Church of Christ on the first Saturday of every month
 - Other services
 - Potter’s Children’s Home - a nonprofit Christian ministry that helps orphans and single mothers
- **Grow in Christ.**
 - We are called to be disciples of Jesus. Disciples are simply followers and learners.
 - Jesus tells this to his disciples after his resurrection and right before he ascends into heaven in *Matthew 28:18-20*: “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”
 - Paul writes in *Colossians 1:28*, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone *mature in Christ.*”

- Discipleship Groups
 - These groups will meet every two weeks at the convenience of the group members.
 - There will be 3-5 members of the same gender.
 - At each meeting each member will ask these four questions: How's your relationship with God? How's your relationship with Christians? How's your relationship with non-Christians? How's your relationship with the Devil?
 - Members will also commit themselves to hold each other accountable to do these three things each day: Read at least one chapter of the Bible a day, say at least one prayer a day, and to communicate with at least one other Christian per day.

Make a decision to follow Jesus this year.

- Jesus tells us that those of us who are wise will hear the words of Jesus and do them.
- There are going to be a lot of things that are going to pull you in a lot of different directions.
- What will it look like for you to take Jesus seriously this year?
- Over the next four years, you will develop your worldview. The decisions you will make these next couple of years or even months will affect you the rest of your life.
- Imagine. What would it look like if you took Jesus seriously this year?