

# Discussion Guide

Matthew 7:21-29

---

## Opening Prayer

**Guided Prayer:** Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying the truths discussed.

## Recap

### **Recap of the Sermon and Summary of the Text**

In Matthew 7:21-29, Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount by highlighting the distinction between true and false discipleship. He emphasizes that not everyone who calls Him "Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of His Father. Jesus warns that many will claim to have performed mighty works in His name, but He will declare that He never knew them because they failed to live in obedience to His teachings. He then contrasts two types of builders: one who builds his house on the rock by hearing and doing Jesus' words, and another who builds on sand by hearing but not acting on His words. The house built on the rock stands firm against the storms, while the one on the sand collapses. This passage underscores the critical importance of putting Jesus' teachings into practice as the foundation of a secure and authentic faith.

## Understanding the Text

1. **True Discipleship:** What does Jesus mean by saying that not everyone who calls Him "Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven?
2. **Doing the Will of the Father:** According to Jesus, what distinguishes those who will enter the kingdom of heaven from those who will not?
3. **False Claims:** Why does Jesus say He will tell some people, "I never knew you"? What is lacking in their claims?
4. **The Wise and Foolish Builders:** What do the rock and the sand represent in Jesus' parable about the builders?
5. **Endurance in the Storm:** What does the storm represent in the parable, and why is the foundation so crucial?

## Practical Application

1. **Obedience in Action:** Reflect on your own life. Are there areas where you call Jesus "Lord" but struggle to obey His teachings? What steps can you take to align your actions with His words?
2. **Building on the Rock:** How can you ensure that you are building your life on the solid foundation of Jesus' teachings?
3. **Evaluating Claims to Faith:** How can we discern whether our faith is genuine or merely superficial?
4. **Responding to Conviction:** When you feel convicted by Jesus' teachings, how do you typically respond? What changes can you make to be more receptive and obedient?
5. **Community Support:** How can your small group support each other in living out Jesus' teachings more faithfully?

6. **Handling Life's Storms:** Think about a difficult situation you are currently facing or have faced. How can building your life on Jesus' teachings help you withstand such storms?
7. **Teaching Others:** How can you encourage others, within and outside your community, to build their lives on the solid foundation of Jesus' teachings?

### **God Has More to Say**

Matthew 7:21-29 contains Jesus' conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizing the importance of doing God's will and the consequences of merely hearing His words without acting on them. The passage includes the famous parable of the wise and foolish builders. Here are related biblical passages that illuminate the themes in these verses:

1. **James 1:22-25:** James emphasizes being doers of the word, not merely hearers. He compares someone who hears the word but does not do it to a man who looks at his face in a mirror and immediately forgets what he looks like.
2. **Luke 6:46-49:** This passage contains Luke's version of the parable of the wise and foolish builders, reinforcing the importance of acting on Jesus' teachings.
3. **John 14:15:** Jesus states, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments," underscoring the necessity of obedience to His teachings as a demonstration of genuine love and discipleship.
4. **James 2:14-26:** James discusses the relationship between faith and works, arguing that faith without works is dead. This complements Jesus' teaching that merely calling Him "Lord" without doing the will of the Father is insufficient.
5. **1 John 2:3-6:** This passage stresses that knowing God is evidenced by keeping His commandments. Those who claim to abide in Him ought to walk as Jesus did, aligning with the call for obedience in Matthew 7:21-29.
6. **Romans 2:13:** Paul states that it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified, echoing Jesus' emphasis on the importance of doing God's will.
7. **Ezekiel 33:30-32:** God tells Ezekiel that the people hear his words but do not put them into practice, comparing them to someone who listens to a lovely song but does not act on it, similar to Jesus' warning against hearing without doing.
8. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15:** Paul discusses building on the foundation of Jesus Christ with lasting materials (gold, silver, precious stones) versus temporary materials (wood, hay, straw), paralleling the idea of building wisely on a solid foundation.
9. **Psalms 1:1-3:** This psalm describes the blessedness of the person who delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night, likening him to a tree planted by streams of water, flourishing and stable, similar to the wise builder.
10. **Deuteronomy 30:14:** Moses tells the Israelites that the word is very near to them; it is in their mouth and in their heart so that they may obey it. This reinforces the theme of internalizing and acting on God's word.

**Prayer** - End with prayer, focusing on specific requests related to the sermon's themes, personal struggles, and applications.