***Lesson: Seven Things Jesus Wants Us To Know (7)***

***December 15, 2019***

**From Mike:**

Today we are looking at the last of the seven things Jesus wants us to know—at least as far as his Sermon on the Mount is concerned. But since this lesson is the core of what Jesus taught during his entire earthly ministry, it’s all very important. This has been one of the most enjoyable and instructional studies of my life. I love seeing the flow of what Jesus was teaching and the clear challenges he was making. If I were to summarize the three-chapter-sermon into one sentence, it would be: ***Don’t let anyone or anything distract you from honestly and diligently seeking a relationship with God.*** It’s really that simple. What makes it complex is our tendency to be unauthentic and unfocused and allow what others are doing and thinking to distract us from God. His principles are timeless, universal, and deeply connected. Can you see the connections?

1. God loves seekers! 5:1-16

2. Choose real over ritual! 5:17-42

3. Attitude drives application! 5:43-48

4. Tools are treasures! 6:1-24

5. God takes care of family! 6:25-34

6. Comparison destroys but commitment succeeds! 7:1-12

7. 7:13-27, What do you think his principle is?

He closes out this famous and all-purpose lesson with three analogies that are some of the most well known and widely quoted passages in the Bible. You have the Wide and Narrow Gates, the Good and Bad Fruit, and the ever-popular VBS story of the Wise and Foolish men who build their house on the rock and the sand respectively. What is Jesus saying? How is he wrapping up his lesson? Hint: it’s all about choices!

Donna and I are taking a two week vacation for Christmas. I don’t think we’ve ever done that before, but we will spend a good chunk of it with family as we all meet in San Diego. I know Jerry will have some great things to share with you while we are gone. So, since we won’t be here, we both wish you a ***Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Years! 2020!!!***

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