

Sermon: Jesus the Teacher **Text(s)**: Matthew 7: 24-29; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Introduction: Who would you identify as the person who has taught you the most about living life? What is one of the most important lessons they taught you? **How** did they teach?

Reflect on the sermon: What new insights did you gain from this message?

Examination: Which way do you think most people think of the Christian faith: 1) as a “system of belief” or, 2) as a “way of life”? Why is this important?

How readily do you look to the teachings of Jesus to instruct you in daily living? Can you think of a recent example of a way you have specifically applied a teaching of Jesus to a particular issue?

Read Matthew 7:24-27 and reflect on these questions:

- How does the world define a “fool” / a “wise person”? How does Jesus?
- Agree/disagree: *“The decisions and choices I make build my life, and I’m responsible for the life I’m building.”* Is this always true?
- How have you seen the “storms of life” reveal the foundation someone has built their life upon?
- Often we try to fix what’s on the outside when it’s what we’ve built upon that is crumbling apart. The fool build’s his/her house on sand. What does sand represent in this parable?
- What does it mean to “put into practice” the teachings of Jesus? How do you seek to obey this in your Christian walk? (share as many ways as you can think of)
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. What questions does this text raise?
- How do our two texts stress the utter seriousness of what is being taught?

Application:

Get into small groups and do “Fact/React/Act”.

Fact: share something you learned.

React: share something you feel in response to this study.

Act: share something you plan to do. (This is crucial – ten times in Matthew 7:13-27 the word “do” or “practice” appears. Jesus wants us to ACT!)

89 Day Challenge: Read through the Gospels, one chapter a day for 89 days. Keep a notebook of the teachings of Jesus that you want to apply to your life. Pray daily that the Holy Spirit will empower you to “cling” to these teachings (John 8:34). Commit to do this with someone from your SS class – hold each other accountable.