

## COMMANDS OF CHRIST

### 4. Obey My Teaching



Can you remember what the commands of Christ are that we have looked at so far? The first is that we are to repent, the second that we are to be baptised, and the third, that we are to love one another. The next command is found in John 8:31. What is it? “Obey My teaching.” We are going to read a story that Jesus told that teaches us about the importance of obeying God’s Word.

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:21-27

#### A. We must hear God’s Word

In the story Jesus told both men heard the Word of God. Look at v24 and v26. How can we hear the Word of God? We can hear the Word of God when we read the Bible ourselves, or when someone reads to us. We can also hear the Word of God when someone teaches. The first Christians met often to listen to the apostles teach from the Word of God. Many of them could not read but they listened carefully and became strong Christians. We need to listen carefully when we attend Bible studies and church services so God can speak to us and we can grow in our Christian life.

#### B. We must obey the Word of God v21-23

Although both men in the story heard the Word, they responded differently. How did the second man respond to the Word of God? v26. Even though he heard the Word he did not obey it. Jesus said that he was foolish. It is useless to listen to God’s Word and not obey. We may deceive ourselves into thinking we are good Christians but we cannot fool God. Look at what v21 says about the foolish man. Jesus said that the man who does not obey His Word will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. On Judgment Day he will tell Jesus all the things he has done, but Jesus will have to say, “Get away from me”. Although he used the name of Jesus he did not obey what He said to do.

How did the other man respond to God’s Word? v24. This man heard the words of Jesus and obeyed. Jesus said he was wise. This is the man who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said that if we are His disciples we will obey His teaching. This proves that we really love Him and belong to Him. Read John 14:23-24. There is blessing in obeying. When we obey, God the Father will love us and come and live with us. In John 15:7 it says that if we continually obey God He will answer our prayer. It is those who obey God’s Word who will stand before Jesus on Judgment Day and hear Him say, “Well done”.

#### C. Obeying God’s Word is the foundation of our lives v24-27

Jesus told a story about two builders. One was foolish and he built his house on the sand, while the other was wise and built his house on the rock. When the storm came the house that was built on sand was destroyed. Storms are pictures of difficulties, temptations and persecutions we may experience. If we have not been obedient to the Word of God the storms in our life will destroy our faith and we will fall. However if we have been obedient, we are like the wise man who built on a rock. When the storms come into our lives we will stand strong. Let us be wise and build a strong foundation in our lives, by continually hearing and obeying God’s Word.

## **Conclusion**

Finally let us read James 1:22-25. This also speaks about reading the Word of God. If we listen to God's Word but do not obey it, we are like a person who sees that his face is dirty in a mirror, but does not go and wash it. Let us not be like that! Let us be wise and look carefully at God's Word and put it into practise. That person